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## History of Limmers

### **Key to identifying Names**

You will find most names are followed by a bracketed code

**Name(xxxx.xx)**

The first 4 digits are the assigned year of birth.  
This may be approximate, deduced from other events or given in  
official records.

The suffix number gives the family of the sibling unit into which the  
person was born. This may be unknown in which case it will be  
denoted by 'U'





## History of Limmers

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## INTRODUCTION

### INTRODUCTION

The internet is not a place to take information at its face value. A simple error on one site may be repeated rapidly as fact on many others. Verification of data is not easy because sources are rarely listed. Facts and opinions not always clearly separated, lead to conclusions that are not logical.

Books are no different. Books often quote information as definitive because of the authoritative way they are written, it is easy to accept a statement as true simply because it is in black and white. In researching Limmer ancestry, there are a number of books claiming to give the source of the name, some of these make assumptions that a little further investigation proves to be misleading.

Beside this, all knowledge is progressive. Some facts of today will be laughed at tomorrow as though they were written by the Flat Earth Society, simply because another fact comes to light that requires a change to foundational building blocks of a logical chain. Thus, the process has to begin again.

That is not to say there is no error, bad logic or wrongly interpreted facts in these Jottings. I am sure there are. Errors just wait for one vital, undiscovered clue to change the picture once again. Overall, I hope, to have assembled a jigsaw puzzle, albeit a picture with bits missing, but complete enough to predict and appreciate the whole. I hope it is adequate to achieve my purpose in writing, which is not so much to give the definitive volume on ancestry but to discover the character of the Limmer family as it has been passed down through the years. I hope to see how Limmers coped with the trials and tribulations of their day. I hope to discover their values, Their

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interests, their passions. I hope to uncover their family relationships, how they valued education, how they treated the poor or the rich. I hope to feel proud where they achieve and smile at any antics, (the name Lymmer suggests there will be a few of those).

To do this we need for example, to separate the term '*lymmer*' and the surname Limmer. The Lymme family is given a large part of space in part one of this book - not because it gave rise to the surname Limmer, (I am sure it did not), but because the Lymme family, (having taken their name from Lymme the town), seem to have been instrumental in spreading the term *limmer*, (rather than the surname Limmer), far and wide. Some have claimed Lymme to be the source of Limmer lines, but it is far from proven. The Lymmies certainly influenced the term *limmer*, not least because they were an influential family whose character portrayed many characteristics associated with roughness and rudeness that became attached to the term *limmer*, (*knights with coarse manners and breed of vicious dogs are two examples*). They may have earned the nickname *limmer* without changing their surname because of their strong fighting character.

Limmers may not all be descendants of one source. Limmers in the north of England, Scotland or Ireland are less likely to be related to one another than those in the south east of England. There were many solders in the army of Rome that conquered the north of England who stayed after being rewarded with lands and property. These may have been associated with the derogatory term '*limmer*'. For some it may have stuck. However, the burden of proof for that lies with those who claim it to be so.

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Part two of this book is the result of deeper research and, so far as I know, has not been examined in any genealogist's studies of Limmer. When I started this section, it came as a surprise to me to find the numerous landmarks left by Limmers around Hampshire before 1400 AD. These are clear evidences of the name's descent from Saxon times, as a result I changed the direction of my research. Unfortunately, the rapid growth of Reading and Basingstoke has meant the destruction of a good deal of the early history of Limmers. Places like Suffolk and Norfolk have taken time and care to document history as they expanded, but lower down in the country you have to dig deep.

It also surprised me when I could not find any Limmers in the Church ministry. Given the close association of Limmers with the church, (Churchwardens, treasurers, Priory workers, and a strong connection with the Winchester Bishops and the Puritan movement for example), If you discount "Preaching Limmer ", a monk of Elizabethan times who travelled Briton preaching in the villages, I have not uncovered any early Limmers in the ministry of the church. Preaching Limmer was probably a nickname rather than a surname, it described the way he lived rather than his descent. It seems that Limmers have a genetic bias toward the practical and few made the transition into the 'Professional Callings' reserved for the upper classes of the time.

Given all this, part two of these jottings takes the form of general discussion around the name, places and terms associated with Limmer. We must do this first in order to eliminate many false trails that have arisen.

Pick up six books and there will be seven origins of the Limmer tribe. I remember a friend, (surnamed Smith), telling me how he was offered the 'genuine Smith Clan Tartan' on a visit to Scotland. When

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he questioned it, the quick thinking salesman sold him a yarn of how the warring clans sometimes called themselves Smith to avoid being drawn into the conflict. My friend was most suspicious of this as, at that time, any Englishman would have attracted much more wrath from a Scottish clan by masquerading as Scotsman and wearing a kilt.

Joseph C. Wolf in his *'Lecture on Heraldry'* tells the story of a film star who proudly displayed what, she had been told, was her family coat of arms. She displayed it on her Rolls Royce and everything else she owned. One day she met a genealogist who told her it was not a coat of arms but a 'sinister baton' – a mark of illegitimacy.

The story of Limmers is a fanfare to common man. There are plenty of books on the well-known people of history. Well-known leaders from down the ages find themselves in history books time and again for their legacies. Limmers are among the backbone of society. They are not always noticed at first, but dig just beneath the skin of society and they will be there, contributing to a legacy that has lasted many hundreds of years.

Early Limmers pioneer roads; later Limmers tarmac<sup>1</sup> them. Early Limmers lay foundation bricks on church buildings that still stand today; later Limmers contribute to Church proper by being treasurers and lay workers. Early Saxon Limmers meet basic needs of local society by building ponds; later Limmers lay pipes and ducts. Early Limmers felled trees and cleared land; later Limmers planted grazing

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1 Limmer and Trinidad company were very much leaders in this field in the 1900's. Although there were several Limmers working for or even managing the company between 1870 -1920, the Limmer title refers to the asphalt and tar found around Limmer in Germany (and some records say Limmer in France also). The Trinidad part refers to the asphalt lakes of Trinidad.

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lands and fed the community with flour ground in mills, bread baked in ovens, manufactured warm woollen cloths from the backs of sheep and strong made boots for the army. These Limmers have no mention in the history books but they have left their substantial legacy in the avenues of time.

Now is a good time to tell their story. Though these landmarks stood the test of time from Saxon to twentieth century, century twenty-one is rapidly erasing the evidence of their existence. Ponds, farms, houses and fields that have born witness to Limmer for hundreds of years, now give way to housing estates. Those landmarks disturbed in the last thirty years or so are traceable with a little effort. Those erased before then are probably lost forever. It has been good to visit places, talk with local people who remember local landmarks, and listen to them describe these landmarks with affection.

On the other hand, progression since the advent of the internet has opened up so many other avenues of tribute. Bishops transcripts, Latin texts translations by interested scholars, newspaper cuttings, censuses and the like, all increase the picture of this family. The more we see of this evidence the more we see the genetic traits coming down the family line. Tenacity comes down the line, often misinterpreted as stubbornness by those who came up against it. Tenacity carried the Limmers through hard times; it gave them a determination to survive against cruel odds. No one can demonstrate tenacity more than Maureen Derby, my cousin. Maureen spent many years researching our ancestral line and put me right on many things I had missed. Her eye for detail, her logic and her patient research over twenty years makes her outstanding. No matter where I went in my research Maureen had been there before me and I am indebted for all her help.

A caring and concern for those less well off than themselves also



## INTRODUCTION

comes down the line. Some, like Steven Limmer who lived in Charles Dickens' time, clearly chose to identify with the poorer parts of society rather than the rich and powerful. Steven's story, told later, is only one example of this trait. He is a particularly good example, reading between the lines he acted as a sort of Robin Hood in a Dickens world, cashing in on rich gentlemen in his hotel and casino while choosing to associate himself with a church that had a mission outreach to the poor.

Both Maureen and I can vouch for another trait in this Limmer line, a tendency to suppress rather than discuss the bad side of life. All my father's siblings were in the war but none would disclose much. Ask the brothers about their childhood memories and only the funny ones would be retold. I know my father saw some pretty devastating things in the war because 'uncle' Jock told me. Uncle Jock was not a real uncle but a fellow soldier who remained friends of the family for many years afterwards.

It was in fun rather than on any authority of research that I answered a question, *'What is the motto of the Limmer family'?*

I replied, *'Teneo Vestrum Caput Tenus'*, which roughly translates as *'keep your head down as far as...'*

The task of filling in the dots is yours.

*'The Grindstone'* certainly fits the dots. Limmers certainly gained a hallmark of hard workers down the ages.

*'The parapet'* also fits, for there were few that spoke out too loudly on controversial subjects. Clearly, they associated with Puritans or church reformists but they are not amongst the verbal few. You cannot say for certain if they were royalists or parliamentarians, while the civil war rages they kept their head down producing and selling the grain so needed during the period- no matter which side you may be on. On the whole Limmers were (are?) a law abiding

## INTRODUCTION

lot. Pretty boring really! During Elizabethan times Robert Lymmer and his Cousin did a bit of smuggling into France. We cannot tell for how long or how often this went on, but we know they did because they got caught. You can read about them in part two.

What about the triplet -health, wealth and long-life? Most Limmers lived a full and long life relative to the time in which they lived. One at least was still going to sea in his seventies. Limmers were not among the richest but most had an elegant sufficiency. In part three you will meet Edward who was probably the black sheep of the family. But here we see a distinct pattern change in the family lines and a clear link of this triplet. Did Edward have a learning difficulty when he was born? Or did he just grow up with a chip on his shoulder because he could not get on with his step mother? The debate about cause and effect is open and you must make up your own mind, but clearly Edward's poverty affected his later health and prosperity as well as the generations who came from his issue.

There is no evidence of tyrants or conquering Saxons in the Limmer story, rather we have a story of families making a living and minding their own business – unless pushed into a corner. This acts as further circumstantial evidence that Lymmes rather than Limmers are the source of these rough and ready terms. I hope you are as fascinated reading about the Limmers as much as I have been researching them. Enjoy!

## INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

# PART 1

Examining the theories

General beginnings



## Chapter 1 THE ORIGIN OF LIME

*Figure 1: Family Crest of  
Lymme*



Our first task is to examine the origins of term, place, substance and persons called Limme. We must do this because we must separate these from a family who bear the name Limmer. We ask if the Limmes took their name from Lymme the town, Lime the substance, Limme the ancient family name of aristocracy in Lymme or even lymmer the byword of the middle ages. All these theories have been forwarded as explanations.

The earliest references in England of the surname Limme seem to be in the time of King John. The town appears in its earliest form 'Lymm' under William 1, (1066 and all that). It appears in the doomsday book, although it probably retained the name from Roman times. Gilbert de Lymme had control of lands around Chester by late 12th century.

Gilbert received title and lands in Lymme after returning from fighting service. From this point on, he became known as Gilbert de

Lymme.

Limme's had been knights from 1100 AD, and probably well before this<sup>2</sup>. Gilbert's predecessors may well have come from the continent with William the Conqueror; 'We came... we saw ... we stayed' so to speak. However, we cannot confirm this<sup>3</sup>, but we do know the term *limmer* was in use before they came and embedded in this term is a tale of how *limmer* widened in use to everyday slang

The plea rolls also assert :

'...the Family of Lymme took its surname from the place of Lymme and remaining as Lords of the manor until Edward the second. The first Gilbert de Lymme being Lord of the Moiety of Lymme in Cheshire in King John's time ...' (1199 AD).<sup>4</sup>

Cheshire, the county in which Lymme resides, had been a source of lime since late Roman times. Under the period from Henry II to King John, (1189-1200 AD), buildings of bricks and lime mortar

- 
- 2 The romantic notion that people could just become a knight needs clarifying. A knight would have been schooled for the post from the age of seven upward. A knight would be able to read, write and speak three languages, (Latin, French and English); he would be expected to excel in riding, swimming, archery, combat, falconry, chess, etiquette and song writing. Hardly a trade for the poor who used all their energies working the farm to keep a family. This suggests that Gilbert would have had at least one generation before him interested in knighthood.
  - 3 I have already expressed doubt as to this origin of the name because the name was in existence before the Conqueror came.
  - 4 The Plea Rolls

rose fast. Castles, no longer made of wood now become stone layered in lime mortar. Substantial buildings built in Saxon times, now shift in focus from war to peace as towns and cities increase in size rapidly, large quantities of lime travelled over land by horse and cart. The *Plea Rolls* describe Lymme's lands as plots of separate functional pieces, while *Bucklow Hundreds* account describes how Gilbert Lymme's land became worthless wasteland by late eleventh century. It looks like the Limmes of Lymme mined their land to profit from lime<sup>5</sup>. One such Knight, Gilbert by name 'was given lands in and around Lymm Cheshire<sup>6</sup> in recognition of Knight's service in the army of King Richard I. He became known as 'Gilbert de Lymme'.

While installed in the army, presumably between crusades, Gilbert de Lymme had at least three sons, all of whom became knights. The older son, also Gilbert by name, later moved to Thingwall installed as Lord of the manor of Lee. This son of Gilbert Lymme became known as Gilbert de Lee<sup>7</sup>.

Quite when Domville's became Lord of the Manor at Lymme cannot be fully determined. Gilbert de Lymme served King Richard I as knight out of loyalty to the crown. But his descendants, possibly influenced by Gilbert (Junior), saw the benefits of sub contracting their services. The Domvilles, who already owned much land in Chester received request for fighting men from the king. To

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5 The Bucklow Hundreds refers to '...de Lymme de Lymme' as (the Limmes of Lymme)

6 Gilbert de Lymme installed as lord of the moiety of Lyme in King John's time The Family of Lymme took their surname from the place. The family remained as Lord of the manor until King Edward II (1316). (Bury Records Office)

7 The Limmes of Lee also took their name from the seat of authority given with the manor of Lee. Thus, the Lymme family branched into the Lee family.



supplement his quota Domvilles contracted the services of the De Lymme family to fight under their banner. De Lymmes fought for the king just as they had done before but with the added bonus of naming an ever-increasing price as the sub contractor. The disadvantage to this sort of arrangement was that knights fought under other Colours and any commendations in battle went to the employers credit. Lymmes interact with Domvilles throughout their family story. The Domvilles have their part to play in the migration of Lymmes from Cheshire to Suffolk.<sup>8</sup>

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8 The Domvilles of Lymm, Cheshire, traced their descent from one of William the Conqueror's Norman followers (see Burke's 'Peerage and Baronetage' under Domville and Domville). Domvilles seat of influence centres around Lancashire and Yorkshire : 'An account of the family in the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries appears in 'The Domvilles of Brimstage and Oxton', vol 103 of the Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society series. In the person of Hugh de Domville, the family first appears holding the lordship of Oxton in the middle of the 12th century. In about 1215 or 1216 the manors of Brimstage and Oxton were held by Sir Robert Domville, and his name appears as witness to a couple of Cheshire deeds and as witness to one for Eggleston priory in Yorkshire'. The migration of Lymmes to Suffolk was assisted when the Lymmes entered the service of Domvilles as Knights and stayed on in their service after the major was looking after the interests of their masters. Limme and Domville merge when 'John Domvilles' son Robert married, in or before 1342, Agnes, daughter of Thomas de Legh, and became the ancestor of the Domvilles of Lymm, ' Thomas de Legh was Gilbert De Limme's brother's son the name changed from Limme to Legh to take the name of the manor of which he was lord.

## Chapter 2 THE LEGACY OF LYMME

**T**he ravaging of land for profit and leaving it as wasteland seems to have expanded the term *lymmer*. Lymmes seem to have been quiet ruthlessness and profiteering; not only did they strip the land<sup>9</sup> but in the courts they showed little mercy to their debtors. If defaulters could not pay, these knighted fellows would take the value by force.

During the fifteenth century, the country itself divided in two ways. It divided between east and west England; those on the east were mainly loyalists while those on the west sought a parliament. England also divided between gentry and commoner. The rich ruling class would communicate in French and Latin while commoners continued with Saxon English. Many names of places and people changed as they passed between the lips of commoner and gentry. Lord of the manor, and many dignitaries became surnamed by notoriety only to be derided by the commoner who had his own version of the place. Question: What did knights do between crusades? Answer, look for ways to make more money at home. Actually, it is not at all clear that Gilbert de Lymme, who

Some Knights placed upon their armour  
Signs that were different from another  
In order to be known thereby, while others  
Placed them upon their heads or on their horses

*(Lays de Partida Spanish poet 1051 AD)*

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9 The Plea Rolls, describe Lymme's lands as plots of separate functional pieces, while Bucklow Hundreds account describes how Gilbert Lymme's land became worthless wasteland by late eleventh century. It looks like the Limmes of Lymme mined their land too.

## Chapter 2 THE LEGACY OF LYMME

became a fighting knight under Henry II, went to the crusades. Whether any Lymmes ever fought in the Crusades I do not know, but I rather think they hired themselves out to cover for fighting service at home.

### The Hunting of Greene Lyon.

Thow wilt finde trewth in thys werke;  
But if so be thow be lay,  
And understond not I say,  
Keepe counsell then and leve thy toy,  
For it beniffits no Limmer loy,  
To medle thys high phylosphy.  
My counsell take for thow schalt fine it true.  
(English Alchemical Verse)

It might better be supposed that Gilbert fought for the king in retaking Cumbria and Northumberland back from the Scottish King Malcolm IV. This campaign started from the district of Lymme in Cheshire. A number of people took part in the campaign and afterwards settled in the north of England. Commoners often used surnames of their rulers in derogatory ways as a way of handling their submission, so these were soon referred to as '*lymmers*', not because they were descendants of Gilbert de Lymme but because they began the push for the north from Lymme. Northerners used the term *lymmer* in contempt of such coarse conquerors, not only because they took their land but also because they left it in a ruined state. While we are here, perhaps we can ask the question, Did the greater influence come from place Lymme or trade of lime-ing? The

## Chapter 2 THE LEGACY OF LYMME

answer is; both seem to have reinforced it! The place and the trade grew together.

Situated near Lincoln, Great Limber, Limber Parva and Limber Magna were major sources of lime by the twelfth century. Wooden buildings gave way quickly to the new building techniques of brick and stone. The lime industry grew rapidly to keep up with demand. On the eastern side of the country, Chester and Limme produced companies to process lime for the building industry. Lime supplied by local yeomen was sold to people like John Limer who formed a company John Limer & Co.(C 1260) later known as Limer and Co. By 1265 their main office was near Bury St Edmunds, and branched as William Lymer of Cambridge. Adam Lymer formed another company in Cambridge around the same time.<sup>10</sup> Those applying their trade to new stone buildings became known as lymers because they were cementing with Lyme. John, William and Adam all belong to one family, but early writers spelled their name several ways in one document. Thus, Limmer, Lymmer, Lymer and Lymer are assigned to the above, simply because they are all pronounced the same way.<sup>11</sup> It would depend on the background of the scribe, was he, (and it was usually a male profession), used to writing the French way, the Latin way or the emerging English way.

Generally those who took their name from the trade settled nicely to Limer or Limor, while those from the place or the tribe settled to Limmer. Quite often the spelling would be written several ways in one document. Sorting out which was which becomes a headache, but generally the context or some external evidence gives the game away.

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10 Ref : Buckingham Records Office index of trades.

11 Local accent may account for much of this.

## Chapter 2 THE LEGACY OF LYMME

### FROM ROME TO SAXON

By 450 AD, the Romans were militarily stretched and recalled their troops from England. This was the signal for a free for all. Danes, Celts, Vikings, Mercian, and Saxons each tried to secure an ever increasing share of a limited island.

Many Saxons serving in the Roman Army decided to stay and brought their families over from Germany. Archaeological evidence shows a Saxon settlement of c500 AD in Suffolk but there is no evidence of Limmers among them.

By c1100 AD, however we see a much evidence of Limmers settled in Hampshire. While evidence of the term Limmer exists prior to c900 AD, the first tangible evidence of a Saxon family from the town Limmer in Germany begins to unfold.

Limmers from Limmer were forced out of their castle by the House of Hanover who wanted it for a monastery and thus begins my tale local accent

*History\_in\_Brief 1: from Rome to Saxon*

## *Interlude of Interest 1: Language*

Since the sixth-century, the Jutes, Saxons, and Angles resolutely refused to succumb to Latin or French language. Englisc, or the Anglicised take off ‘Angli-Saxones’ has submerged and re-emerged altered time and again. Its biggest influence on names and places occurred during the middle ages. By 1000 AD, French had a strong influence. By 1200 AD Latin had conquered Law, Politics and History writing. By 1400 AD, Latin became the norm for official documents such as customs and excise, births deaths or marriages (which were handled by the church where Latin was prominent).

Middle English emerged through Latin radically different from Old English by 1600.

Henry V made a marked ‘request’ that English be the language of literature. Many Latin and French writings were translated into English at this time.

French to Latin changes drop ‘de’ or ‘la’, (French for ‘of’ and ‘the’ as in Gilbert of Lymme or ‘de la Cell’ -of the room). Latin uses the context to make an association between Subject and object and it is written as Gilbert Lymme –no longer Gilbert of Lymme.

Latin to English changes influenced surnames like Limmer mainly in the ‘Y’ and ‘I’ and in the usage of ‘E’ and ‘R’.

The use of Y as an I, (sounding like ‘eye’ to replace an IE (as in Pie), meant that Lime could become Lymm. Clerks, who needed to write in three languages, often combined them changing the ‘I’ to ‘Y’ but leaving the ‘E’ (as in Lymme). As common folk began to read for themselves, Y followed by E changed the ‘Y’ sound back to ‘I’ (as in Pin).

Several reasons have been suggested for the adding of ‘R’, these include showing ‘Y’ is short, emphasising the final ‘M’ in a verbal society (distinguish Limme from Limbe for example), or denoting a trade or activity from a seat of authority, (as in Limmer a limewright or Limber a track layer rather than Mayor of Lymme).

This argument however, remains to be demonstrated by its advocates

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 3 DOG GONE LYMMER

Hunting had taken place since Saxon times but the Norman Conquest gave it new vigour. During the time of relative peace, the knights and gentry needed to keep their fighting skills intact. Barons would drive out whole villages of peasants in order to use forestry for their sport, they would justify the need saying ‘knights and fighting men needed to keep up training’. This might seem an extravagant excuse in the light of hunting today, but the savages of a wild bore, bull or cornered stag injured more knights than the crusades.

Indeed, many would-be-knights had to prove themselves in the



*Figure 2: A cross between a hound and a mastiff became known as a Lymmer named after its breeder from the Knights Lymme .*

woods before going on crusade.<sup>12</sup> Every able bodied male was

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<sup>12</sup> Among other books, ‘1251 the year of the Magna Carta : Danny Danziger & John Gillingham: Stoughton’, gives a vivid picture of the skills and scares of



### Chapter 3 DOG GONE LYMMER

required to do archery practice daily during this period. Lymmer became common in the language around this time in two ways. First, kings and knights went hunting in their new laid forests. In Saxon times, hunting would be for rabbits or game birds, so the common hound was a useful dog to sniff out the catapulted food and bring it back to master. Hunting now became bigger and more ruthless. Poaching had to take care of the need for food whereas hunting for larger animals like stag, bull and wild bore, became the sport of the rich. The common hound was not ferocious enough to tackle bigger beasts so it was crossed with a mastiff to make it ferocious. This cross between a mastiff and a hound, known as a 'lymmer' hound, is said to have taken its name from its breeder. Lymmies of Cheshire and Nottingham, besides being known for their ruthless manner, also attended the forest hunts with kings to chase wild pig and kings deer using these dogs. It is a small step to associate a derogatory remark about the ruthless behaviour of the knights with the dogs they led.

Some higher classes referred to this dog as a '*Lymer hound*' or '*Lymeshound*', perhaps the first denotes the vicious nature and the second the breeder's name. This new breed has the distinction of being the first dog to be leashed. Alluding to this animal's qualities, in the poem '*The Hunting of Greene Lyon*', the writer draws a parallel with the ferocious killing nature of the dog that rendered the carcass useless and the nature of the recent trend in society to destroy the foundational philosophies of society.

From the footnotes of 'the Sultan of Babylon we can read:

*An 'alaunt' is 'a highly prized ferocious dog of a breed used in hunting, bull-baiting, etc.'; a 'Lymmer' is 'a hound trained to be led on a leash and to track game by scent'; 'racche' refers to 'a dog*

---

the English knight.

### Chapter 3 DOG GONE LYMMER

*that hunts by scent' (MED).*

#### Northumbrian words

- 1) limmer / limber - supple; treacherous: "a limmer thief"
- 2) limmer /limbers - the rough cut shafts of a cart

Again, according to Cummins,<sup>13</sup> (C 1450), '*... it was the job of the "lymerer" or "Limmer" (trainer/keeper of the Lymmer or hunting dog) or "local forester or parker" to direct the "master of game" to the best eligible hart as quarry ...*'.

Ferocious knights were said to 'fight like a lymmer'. Today we simply say 'fight like a dog'. Northumbrian thief's were only called *limmers* if they used violence - for example a mugger. A little later, The rough cut shafts of a cart became known as *limmers* because of the way they were hacked roughly into shape with an axe.

Second, Hunting was the sport of kings and barons who forbade commoners to organize or take part in such activities. The king's orders to shire rulers to '*... oust those peasant farmers and create a hunting forest*', cut across the conscience of many lords. Crossing the king meant losing ones position, (if not one's head). For many of these lords, position meant livelihood. There was little option but to ruthlessly drive villagers from their homelands; leaving them to roam. More sensitive lords and barons, (those with rather more 'parliamentary' leanings), began to take hold on the eastern side of the country where we find a more lenient approach to this problem. The church often helped here, although this might

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13 John Cummins' : The Hound and the Hawk

### Chapter 3 DOG GONE LYMMER

well have an opportunist motive. Around this time, especially in the south of England, bishops cleared church owned forests for new peasant villages- at a rent of course.

**no woman of the city shall henceforth go to  
market, or be found in the kings highway, out of  
her house, with a hood furred with other than  
lambskin or rabbits skin on pain of loosing her hood  
to the sheriffs**

**And this because that regratresses nurses  
and other servants, and women of loose life,**

One change taking place at this time provided an escape for many Lords of conscience, money began to take the place of goods and lands as repayment of favour. Many on the west side of England, disconcerted by their lot, swapped their land for money or other lands on the west side where the king's influence was greater. Knowing they would lose their land and power, some overlords negotiated to swap allegiance for land and power in another part of England.

Lower classes, (plebs, commoners or peasants), having little money to carry with them also joined the migration. On arriving, many had to give way to lewd or loose behaviour in order to live. On arrival at the town gates many would be greeted by a notice warning of dress code. Such notices as the one in Figure 3 did little good because most commoners could not read.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> History repeats itself, if not a little differently each time. In 2005, many

### Chapter 3 DOG GONE LYMMER

Quite why the term '*limmer*' became synonymous with low or base fellows around this time is unclear. As we have discussed, it most likely due to the army attacks on northerners originated from Lyme, the term *limmer* became a derogatory term like 'Pomes'- used of Australians against the British today.

Women were not excluded from the term, loose women were also known as *limmers*. According to Webster, *Limmer* came to mean:

*'A low base fellow or Prostitute' as in :... Thieves,  
Limmers and broken men of the Highlands.--*

*Sir W. Scott*<sup>15</sup>

Worse, in these times, when witches were drowned on ducking stools in a local pond, *limmer* became associated with this dubious profession.

In the play '*Lancaster witches*<sup>16</sup>, we read these lyrics

Parn what the de owl ales the Lymmer  
Lowne, Bin thy braines broke lowse trow I

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shopping centres in Britain banned teenagers wearing hoods for fear they were up to no good and could not be identified on closed circuit cameras.

15 Websters Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc

16 Thomas Heywood 1634

**HISTORY\_IN\_BRIEF : 900 to 1100**

**BETWEEN 900 – 1100 AD, MOST LOCAL LORDS AND BARONS BECOME AWARE OF A NEED TO HAVE UNITED ARMY TO WARD OFF INCREASING INVASIONS FROM GERMANY, FRANCE, HOLLAND ETC. LORDS FORMED THEMSELVES INTO A PARLIAMENT, WHICH CHOOSE KNUT AS THE FIRST OF MANY KINGS TO COME.**

**THE ROMAN CHURCH SAW ITS KINGDOM DIMINISH UNDER THREAT OF THE MUSLIMS AND DECIDES TO CRUSADE AGAINST THEM.**

**BOTH THESE MOVES REQUIRE MONEY; SO THE POOR PEASANT FARMER HAS TO PAY MORE IN TAXES.**

**LOCAL LORDS, WHO HAD EMPLOYED KNIGHTS TO LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN INTEREST ARE NOW REQUIRED TO LEND THEM TO THE KING FOR NATIONAL BATTLES, OR TO THE CHURCH FOR CRUSADES.**

*History\_in\_Brief 2: 900 to 1100*

## HISTORY IN BRIEF 1100 TO 1200 AD

LOCAL LORDS AND BARONS WHO HAVE UNITED TO TRY TO INCREASE THEIR UNITY BY FORCING THOSE, MAINLY ON THE EAST SIDE OF ENGLAND, WHO DID NOT WANT TO JOIN THE ALLEGIANCE. THIS CAUSED UNREST AT HOME IN THE FORM OF CIVIL WARS.

THE ROMAN CHURCH , HAVING HAD AN INDECISIVE OUTCOME AGAINST MUSLIMS, HAD SEVERAL MORE ATTEMPTS AT CRUSADING DEMANDING MORE AND MORE MONEY FROM THE NEW NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – THE KING.

IT BECOMES A KNIGHT'S MARKET AND MANY DEMAND HIGH PAYMENT FOR THEIR SERVICES.

LORDS PAY UP IN THE FORM OF LAND AND POWER AT FIRST, BUT LATER, MONEY REPLACES PROPERTY AS PAYMENT FREEING THE KNIGHTS TO TRAVEL WIDELY UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY CONTRACTING THE BEST DEALS.

MANY OF THOSE DEALS INCLUDED THE HAND OF A DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE – THUS SECURING AN INCOME FOR LIFE

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

**B**y C1650, the term *limmer* became associated with a number of other inventions. Sailors rope ladders and ships gunnels were often referred to as the '*limmer*', in Yorkshire, miners referred to the pit ponies track carrying coal from the pit face to surface as the '*limmer track*' all these terms probably came from the earlier word '*limber*' and may have been a corruption of lumber.

This gives us a clue as to the change in spelling and pronunciation. While the gentry of the east would accentuate the *Ly* in *Lyme*, common dialect of west would emphasise the *m* pronouncing *mb* as in *Limb*. The same pony track or rope ladder called *lymmer* west of Leicester would be *Limber* in Norfolk or Lincolnshire. Lime towns in Cheshire might be *Lyme* or *Newcastle-under-Lyme*, but in Lincolnshire, they were *Limber Parva* and *Limber Magna*. This route for the term *lymmer* has been offered as evidence for the change from term to surname, but it remains unproven.

If we were to follow a second theory, in which the surname Limmer derived from a trade or skill, we must also consider the claim by another source<sup>17</sup> that the name Limmer was derived from the ancient trade of illuminators. This theory is less forthcoming with evidence.

We might consider the rapid rise in demand for the parchment and legal writing in the ninth and tenth century. Scribes and illuminators of text became very popular around this time. Most early illuminators came from the stock of monks<sup>18</sup>, (celibacy rather

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17 A dictionary of English Surnames : PH Reaney & RM Wilson Page 279 :

18 A resurgence in the art of Illumination by monastic scholars after 1350 : the



## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

limits the chance of descending from this stock).

Some illuminators did work outside the monasteries. Descendants from these include Thomas Liminor (1273) while those named Limnor descend from Godfrey le Lumnour (C1100). Others are known rather as Limner or Lomer in 1402, as in - '*A bokbynder's owned by Onsey Abbey was rented to Henry Lymner*'. I can find no connection to the surname **Lymmer**<sup>19</sup>.

Some early marriage licences written by the hands of John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> or Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> Limmer and presently kept at Bury St Edmunds record office show highly educated and very skilful handwriting but not to a standard that we might expect of an illuminator. Outside of monasteries, Oxford or Cambridge universities were the best places for training in this field. There are no records of Limmers attending either of these academies and no concrete evidence that links Limmer and the art of illuminating.

One source put forward evidence connecting the two but this was discredited. Catlin, in his research into the Sibbes family, deliberately records the marriage of '*Elizabeth Sibbes to John **Limner***', the document from which he copied the surname unmistakably shows the name as John **Limmer**. His attempt to elevate the class of the Sibbes family by miscopying was declared by Cambridge scholars as 'poor research' and they added a footnote to this effect.<sup>20</sup> Catlin's need to change **Limmer** to **Limner** in order to make the connection between Limmer and Luminur demonstrates the unlikely chance that **Limner** settled down into **Limmer**.

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Oxford Illustrated history of medieval England , Nigel Saul.

19 I have excluded Lumner, Lymner, Lomer and Lumnour from investigation.

20 Works of Richard Sibbes 1790 Banner of Truth.

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

Incidentally, The same source that quoted Catlin, wrongly also lists with '*certainty*' that Stephen<sup>(1776)</sup> Limmer<sup>21</sup> descended from Limer, (whose occupation was a lime burner). As Steven Limmer was a direct descendent of the John Limmer who married Elizabeth Sibbes, it can hardly be accepted with any *certainty* that either descend from lime-burner or liminor.

### **Limmer origins and Place names.**

**I**t is said by some that Limmer started as a place name. It has been suggested, by those who favour the Lymm to Limmer route of origin, that Gilbert de Lymm came to England, bearing the name '*of Lymm*' (de Lymm) in Roman times, and in doing so name the town?

This seems improbable. Which named which? Did the place name the person only after the person had named the place? Did an ancestor travel via Lym France, Limburg in Holland, Lima in Sweden or Limat in Switzerland? Some of these lands do contribute. The French version of Limmer is Lemmere or Lemmer. John Lemmere, for example, probably came from this route<sup>22</sup> or, did he derive his name from the time of the Romans when Lyme the town was established? It is clear that Gilbert took the name as 'Lord of Lymme'. Who named Lymme? Lymme has been recognised since Roman times. Romans mined many areas in

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21 The source quotes '1776 Stephen Limmer and Elizabeth Dewes : St George. Han. Sq i.263 and John Limmer married Elizabeth Sibbes' as descending from two separate lines. There can be little doubt that both) share the same parentage. :

22 John Lemmere 1424 : Suffolk Surnames. I have excluded this form from examination.

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

and around Chester for lime and a lime, processing kiln at Lymme probably accounts for the origin of the place name. The connection between the place and the trade of can be seen in Gilbert's act of exploiting his land for profit by extracting lime.<sup>23</sup>

### Limmer and Migration

**W**e are now in a position to discuss the issue of a migration of Limmer in two ways. First, did the name Lymmer migrate from North? Or did Limmers migrate to Suffolk from the south of England?

During the middle ages, there was clearly a migration of people from west to east. In general, there were several reasons why people moved to the east side of the country in this period. First, there was the war with Wales. Chester was a vulnerable county until this war ended. The king's tenements spread throughout Cheshire. The king recruited most of his army from his tenants thus putting a good deal of pressure on them to take up arms for his cause. Second, the king's new land taxes were fervently pursued in the five counties of the east. Chancellors records for the period show how it could be largely ignored by the counties in the west. Thirdly, to reach ports at Chester, boats travelled close to the Welsh northern coast. Since the general unrest in Wales, which started around 1395, many of the merchant ship owners transferred to

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23 The Plea Rolls, describe Lymme's lands as plots of separate functional pieces, while Bucklow Hundreds account describes how Gilbert Lymme's land became worthless wasteland by late eleventh century. It looks like the Limmes of Lymme mined their land too.

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

Bristol for business and safety reasons<sup>24</sup>. Once the troubles of the north and Wales quietened, the King's presence moved south, moving between London, Portsmouth and Essex in response to the pending war with France.

Suffolk and its surrounding counties remained sheltered from English troubles. Descendants of Gilbert de Lymme the knight had spread quickly southwards by the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Some were still in the employ of the Domvilles and making a good living as knights. By this time Limmers had established a foothold in counties surrounding Suffolk. Some Lymmes had signed up in the fast growing merchant navy. Others, like John de Lymme who some time before went to Bristol, used their education to look for desk jobs. The decline of de Lymme families in Cheshire and their appearance in London and Portsmouth coincides with the return of the King to London after the war with Wales.

### Putting Limmer on the map

**D**id the map influence the name Limmer? It is doubtful! Did Limmer influence the map? Most emphatically 'Yes'!

One such modern example is Limmer Lane named where Limmer bus company parked their buses the early 1900's. Another is Limmer's Terraces, Bury Saint Edmunds. An early map of Bury Saint Edmunds shows part of the Limmer family built a terrace, which became a local landmark. Interestingly, Limmer's Terraces

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24 That is probably why John Lymme's company moved to Bristol as we saw in the last chapter. Bristol already had ties with ports in Ipswich Norfolk. It was easier to transport goods around the coast, (stopping off at Portsmouth and Colchester on the way), than it was to carry the goods across land. The Romans had left a good legacy of roads from south to north but few from east to west.

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

also appear in lime territory. Limekiln cottages and lime fields appear right on its doorstep. It is improbable that they are connected to the works however, as these terraces appear to have been built by Limmers working in corn and wheat sales. Having emigrating to USA from Norfolk and returning to Bury around 1800 AD they built the terraces. Unfortunately, these were demolished and the land sold in early 1900.

A number of map references bearing the name Limmer, point us back to Saxon times. Their proximity tells a good deal about the beginnings of Limmer. These are exiting and we will look at this evidence from earlier maps in part two<sup>25</sup>.

One further point argued by some must be dispelled before we move on. That Lymmer is French in origin is really a non starter. True, it is a small step from Gilbert de Lymme to make Gilbert de Lymmer. But there would surely have been evidence of a 'De Lymmer' in a record somewhere before 1390. Most official records were written in French until that date so the temptation to add the *de* if there was any doubt would have been too great to miss. More than this, the surname de Lymme began to settle down to the surname Lymme<sup>26</sup>. By 1480 AD, only names that had incorporated the *de* or *la* into the surname survived (e.g. Delacell). French was on its way out and the last records of de Lymme recorded by clerks in Bristol, for example, dropped *de* and *la* from names as a matter of policy in 1392.<sup>27</sup>

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25 Other Modern examples of Limmer's leaving a mark on the map might be Limmer Hill in Scotland, Limmerhaugh in Scotland, Limerick in Ireland and many more

26 Hargrave Bishop's Transcript 1574 to 1707 – Suffolk Records office.

27 Purely observational, but the practice of missing *de* and *la* is noticeable in Bristol Records Office records. It seems to have started by the Shipping clerks and spread to most departments by 1420 AD. I do not know if this was a directive from within the council but the practice clearly caught on.

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

The decline of Lyme and the increase of Lymmer in Norfolk, has been argued as Suffolk Lymmes becoming Lymmers<sup>28</sup>. Weigh this against much greater evidence of Lymmers moving up through Hampshire, Bedford and Buckinghamshire to Suffolk and Norfolk, this argument loses its creditability. Lymmers moved into Suffolk from the south.

One, Thomas Lym, did buy farmland between Hartest and Hargrave from Thomas Grome<sup>29</sup> in 1455. He may have been one Thobias or Thomas Lymmer living in Buckinghamshire around that time, but first there is no direct evidence and second, there is no reason to suspect that he headed the family of Lymmers who appear in Hartest and Hargrave soon after 1455.

There are recognisable and established Lymmer families in Hampshire and possibly in Cambridgeshire at least one and a half centuries before this.

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28 Dictionary of English surnames

29 Thomas Lym among those who bought land from Thomas and Matilda Grome, Gulfredus Smythe and William Trowght near Hartest 10 Sept 1455 : NRO  
FLT1 / 168 23x3

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

### Summary In Short so far

- It appears then, Roman association with lime influenced the Cheshire town of Lymm, by its name and industry.
- Lymm produced the surname Lymme C1066, and as a notable family the name became nationally known.
- The people of Lymm and the family Lymme both gave rise, by attitude and invention, to the term lymmer to be added to the English language, for everyday use.
- There is no evidence that Lymme gives rise to the surname Limmer.

*In conclusion of this chapter then, while there is little doubt that the Lymme family added the term lymmer to English language as an adjective or an object, there is no evidence the surname Lymme evolved to Limmer.*

## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS



*Figure 4: Tostock Church Suffolk*

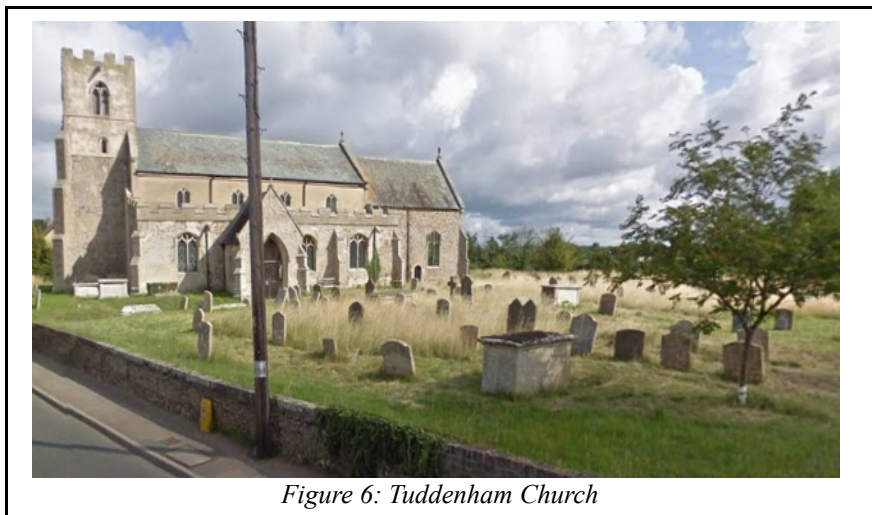
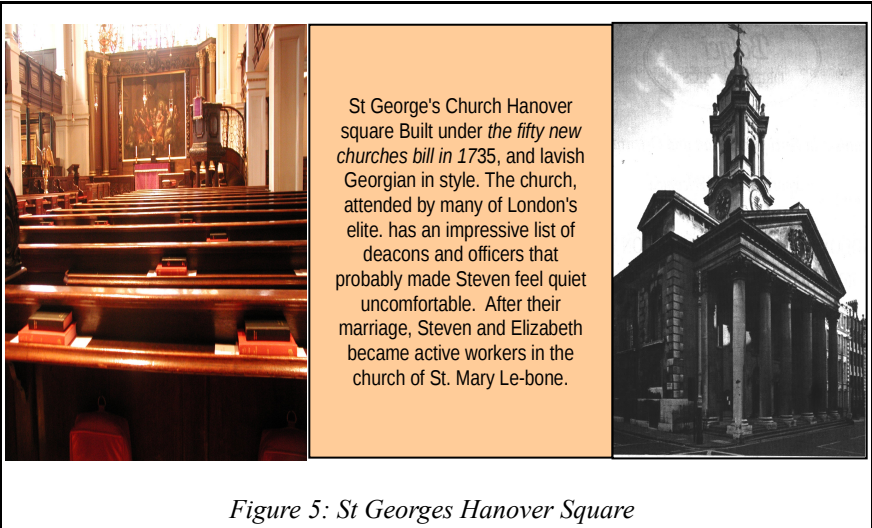


### **Chevington Church**

*O Enter His gates with Praise, Approach with joy his courts unto;  
Praise and bless His name always ; for it is seemly so to do. (W. Kethe  
1516)*



## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS



## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

Table 1: Timeline

560 Aethelbert King of Kent   616 Redwald King of east Anglia   632 Peudu King of Mercia   634 Oswald King of Northumbria   658 Limmers castle Germany   667 Egfrieh King of Northumbria   704 Cenred King of Mercia   729 Coewulf King of Northumbria   750C <b>Limmers ousted from Castle by Hanoverians</b>	796 Conwulf King of Mercia   King of West Saxons & Kentishmei   839 Ethelwu II   f802 Egbert King of West Saxons   899 Edward the elder King of Angles and Saxons   <b>900C</b> <b>Limmer Pond Aldbourne</b>   937 Edgar Acknowledged   As overlord By British Kings and Prince   959 King Edgar	975 Edward the Martyr   Population of England about 2 million   979 Etheleed   1016 Caote King of England, Danes and Norwegians   1016 Chanute Chosen as King   Bastard son Becomes king   1035 Harold 1 Chanute   1135 King Steven   1042 Saxon Restoration of land	1066 Harold 2 Becomes King   1066 Battle of Hastings Ironside king (second in same year)   William 2 becomes King   1086 Household Knights employed for manorial interests   1096 First crusade Saxon Restoration   1100 Henry 1 Becomes King   <b>Limmer fields in Hampshire</b>   1142 Saxon Restoration	1040 Hathacanute becomes king   1141 Matilda (Empress Maud) queen of England   1179 2nd crusade begins   1180 Gilbert becomes fighting knight under Henry II   Horses replace oxen for ploughing   1184 2nd Crusade ends   1189 Richard 1 becomes King   1190 Gilbert given lands in Lymme	1191 First English Windmill   1207 Gilbert (junior) becomes Knight in John 왕 service   1212 John goes to Chester Gilbert given seat of Lyme   1215 Magna Carta   1216 Henry III Becomes king   1220 Westminster Abbey Built   <b>Limer &amp; Co. Cambridge</b>   1190 3rd crusade begins 	1250 Gilbert de Lymme Junior died   1251 <b>Limmer Farm Booker</b>   Population doubled since 1066 To 6,000,000   <b>1290</b> <b>Thomas</b> <b>Lymmer late</b> <b>paying</b> <b>crusade tax</b>   <b>1348</b> <b>black plague</b> <b>kills Limmers</b> <b>in Berkshire</b>   1362 Tax on wool   <b>1370C</b> <b>Limmer</b> <b>hound goes</b> <b>Hunting</b>   1377 Richard II King
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## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

1381 Peasants revolt   1385 Crusades Constantinopl e falls to the Turks   1393 Ottoman Turks annex Bulgaria   1399 Henry IV Becomes King   1400   war with Wales until 1406   1402 John Huss preaching in Prague   1405 Scottish disquiet   <b>1409</b> <b>Limmers give</b> <b>up Great</b> <b>Lymmer</b> <b>Farm due to</b> <b>plague</b>	1407 Henry IV in financial mess Agrees to controversial land tax   1413 Accession of Henry V   1422 Accession of Henry VI   1430 Joan of Arc burned   <b>Limmers</b> <b>Hargrave era</b> <b>begins</b>   1440 Eton College founded   1445 Henry VI marries Margaret   1459 Civil war until 1461   1461 Edward IV Becomes King   1461 House of York Begins	1471 Edward IV defeats Earl of Warwick at Tewkesbury   1483 Richard III   1487 Diaz rounds the cape of good hope   1485 Henry VII   1492 Columbus land in west Indies   1495 Leonardo paints last supper   1499 John Cabot discovers New found land   1509 Henry VIII   The spiritual awakening at Cambridge   1515 Woolsey	1517 Luther's Thesis   1524 Shakespeare Romeo & Juliet   1536 <b>Monasteries</b> <b>Dissolution</b> <b>Limmers</b> <b>contract</b> <b>more land</b>   1547 Edward IV   1549 Norfolk uprising against Landlords   1553 Mary   1558 Elizabeth I   1596 <b>Limmers Go</b> <b>A-smuggling</b>   1605 Gunpowder Plot   1620 Pilgrim Fathers Mayflower	1625 Charles I   1629 Parliament Dissolved   1639 Civil War   1629 Parliament dissolved by Charles I   1631 St Paul's Built   1633 laud becomes Archbishop   1640 Long Parliament   1642 Outbreak of Civil War   1645 Laud Executed   1645 Battle of Edgehill   1648 Society of Friends formed	1649 Charles I Executed   1649 Cromwell Conquers Scotland & Ireland   1664 Empire grows Puritans & East India Dock Co. New England   1656 Jews Readmitted to London   1659 Richard Cromwell overthrown   1660 Charles II   1670 <b>William</b> <b>Lymmer pays</b> <b>Hearth Tax</b>   1685 James II   1689 Mary II & William III	1700 Enclosure & And riotous assembly act in England   1702 Queen Anne   1707 Act of Union   1714 George I   1727 George II   1733 <b>Lymmer's</b> <b>Tuddenham</b> <b>Water mill</b>   1750 Watts Steam Engine   1751 Wool combing Machinery   1752 Woolcombers of Norwich Strike   1756 7-year war with France   1760 George III
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## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

<p><b>1770</b> <b>Limmer Hotel &amp; casino</b>   1756 7 year war with France   1765 Loss of America   1782 work houses for old and infirm controlled by JPs   1779 Samuel Crompton Spinning Wheel   1782 Adoption of Gregorian Calendar 31-12-1752   Paupers Act   1784 Settlement Act   1785 James Watt Steam Engine enters Wool Industry</p>	<p>1790 <b>Edward Limmer looses job to Cartwright</b> <b>Wool combing Machine Causes Strikes</b>   1790 Industrial Revolution begins 1791 Corn Law   1795 Crop Harvest Failure <b>1799</b> <b>John Limmer looses life saving sheep in bad weather</b>   1800 Crop failure again Food Riots   815 Seamen's Strike in Norfolk and north east.   1801 George III</p>	<p>1802 Robert Peel's Factory act   <b>1806</b> <b>John Limmer dies in road accident</b>   1807 First gas lights   1807 Whitbread's Poor Bill   1808 spinners &amp; weavers wages reduced   1815 Seamen's Strike   1815 Poachers act Deportation for 7 years   corn Laws  1816 bitterly cold Summer ruins harvest and causes food shortages</p>	<p>1819 record commercial profits but reduced wages   Peel reduces hours of children in mills to 72   1820 George IV   1820 Rainhill Locomotive trials   1822 loom patent   1824 national wages established for agricultural workers set at 12 shillings for 70 hours   <b>1828</b> <b>Henry Limmer Transported</b>   1830 Chartism Right to vote gentleman not just lords</p>	<p>1836 Under 13's factory working shift limited to 10 hours   Crop failure again Food Riots   Indian Mutiny   Removal of Jewish dissidence   1858 Atlantic Cable Laid   1859 Origin of species Darwin   1837 Victoria   1842 Hong Kong leased as naval base   1846 repeal of corn law   <b>1847</b> <b>Scandal as Unmarried Limmer has son</b></p>	<p>1851 Great Exhibition in crystal Palace   1854 Crimean War   1857   1858 First Atlantic cable laid by great Eastern   1864 London Underground   <b>1865</b> <b>Limmer Omnibus Company</b>   1869 Suez Canal opened   <b>1876</b> <b>72 year old George Limmer still goes at sea</b>   1878 Electric Light   1878 Salvation Army</p>	<p>1885 Internal Combustion Engine   1886 London unrest   1888 Jack the Ripper   1893 Labour Party Formed   1899 Women's suffragette bill   Medical council formed   1903 First flight   1926 First Television Baird   <b>1927</b> <b>James Limmer raises Tower bridge</b>   1942 mainframe computer</p>
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## Chapter 4 LIMMER AND LETTERS

## Part 2

# Limmers settle in England

It's the way I tell it

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 5 AS FAR BACK AS SURNAMES GO

**T**he beginning of a story is a good place to start; but where is that? We cannot go back as far as the Garden of Eden. If we did, we would find Adam had no Surname. We must pick up the story at the turn of first millennium in England when more than nine-tenths of the population lived in the countryside. For two-hundred years, this percentage remained unchanged. Surnames were unnecessary because families worked on small farms and rarely had time to travel far. Late twelfth century changed that. Towns began to grow: Oxford and Cambridge grew around their universities, Rochester and Orford in Suffolk grew around their Castles Durham and Lincoln around their cathedrals.

One person now had to be distinguished from another with the same name because he no longer worked in the family unit, but travelled to sell his skills. Most middle and upper classes would want to continue the name of the father or grandfather down through the family to denote the line of succession. The first-born male carried the traditional first name; the second male carried the name of an uncle and so on. A growing trend after C1100 AD, gave children the names of kings or lordly persons. In Saxon times, the face of England changed rapidly - almost daily. Many Saxon kings gave way to a rising national monarchy under the invading Norman king William. William of Normandy fought long and hard during this consolidation. Twenty years after his invasion, only two major estates remained in English hands. William brought with him the French language, which remained as the main language for two hundred years then rapidly became Anglicised throughout half the



## Chapter 5 AS FAR BACK AS SURNAMES GO

country, forcing the other half to adapt and accommodate. William, having imposed the feudal system, rewarded many of those who fought with him with huge estates, (in return of course for a regular donation to his coffers).

Many of the poor but free peasants under Edward the Confessor (1042 AD), ousted from their land and possessions, were now forced to become bondsman under new Lords of the local manor.

Limmers were here well before 1000 AD. It is hard to establish where and when they came, earliest theories might suggest C450 AD<sup>30</sup> or as late as C700 AD<sup>31</sup>. We can say with some authority that at a time when Saxon Chief Woke was establishing his people in Wokingham and Wokefield, Limmers were establishing their name in history in place names nearby as we shall see now by taking a second look at some early maps.

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30 Gidlas Chronology – Gidlas was a Bishop who came to Britain C460 and claims to encountered Saxons and Picts allied

31 Bede ad 720

## Chapter 6 A SECOND LOOK AT THE MAP

**T**here were two batches of Saxon that came from Germany, the first arrived on the east coast and settled straight away in Suffolk. One argument against the Limmers settling in Suffolk with the first batch of Saxons that come from Germany around 400 AD, was the non existence of place names in Suffolk. When People Emigrate, they like to take with them a part of their history. Such were those that emigrated to America from Britain. They took with them the place names like New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Buckingham, and so on. There is no evidence of this in Suffolk.

This is not true in the area of Buckingham, Berkshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire where the second batch landed. Take a map and put the pin of a compass in a little village called Lower Froyle in Hampshire. Then draw a thirty-mile radius around that point. Within that circle, we find any number of references to Limmers. This, second batch, arrived around 800 AD landing on the south coast because the king of Kent had set up a coast guard.

Looking at this map, we find the most likely origin of the early Limmer family. Records of people before 1400 AD are a rare commodity –unless, of course, they belong to the foremost families of England. Anyone not belonging to the twenty or so ruling families before the middle ages would have left few clues as to their existence. Documentation belonged to aristocracy and nobility. They documented everything to do with themselves but little to do with subservient England. Establishing a detailed picture of Limmers by documents alone is not possible. Even the acclaimed

## History of Limmers

Doomsday Book only gives information of large allocations of land centred on Manors. It gives no clue as to many yeoman, tradesmen, local village elders and vast numbers of villagers subjected to the landowners.

Fortunately for us, however, Limmers, while not of these ruling classes were good servants to them. Mainly skilled practical people or business people with a good education, they set about establishing themselves as good social citizens and hard working tradesmen, (with a few black sheep). They brought and sold land rights and houses using the manorial system. This was a system invented stop monopolies, (although you could get round the many manorial rules and regulations if you were of the right breeding).

Limmers left footmarks as evidence of existence in history. Among these are:

*Great Limmer Farm, Limmer Hill farm, Limmer Copse, two Limmer ponds, Limmer cottage, Limmer Fealds , Limmer Tenement, two Limmer Lanes, Limmer Messuage , Limmerstone in the Isle of white, 'Thomas lane of Lymmer' and Limmers Manor to name but a few.*<sup>32</sup>

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32 Lymmer near Manchester was seized in 1556 in the second year of Philip and Mary's reign the district was lost soon after this there is no evidence that Limmers ever lived there. Source: 'After reciting that Thomas Redish of Caterich ar' was seized in fee of the manors of Doddleston and Gropenhall, and lands in Lymmer,' : Ormerod, The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester, vol. 1 p. 635 fn a

## Hampshire Limmers

The mention of Saxons leads us into the discussion that Limmers came from Germany. Limmer, a town of Germany, was in the middle of Saxon lands. History books tell us that Rome drafted fighting Saxons into its army, especially during the decline of its empire. Saxons were among the Roman troops that built Hadrian's wall. Limmers were certainly fighting people having their own Castle in the upper region of Germany, which they defended regularly. This they did successfully until the army of Hanover overpowered them turned them out as refugees and used their castle as a Monastery<sup>33</sup>.

Early Saxons were among those who made up the II, VI and XX legions of Rome as they built Hadrian's Wall c 130 AD.<sup>34</sup> However, the identity of these people as far as these isles were concerned, was Roman. To identify as anything else would have been unthinkable to anyone who served in the army of Rome. Such contempt for the Roman army gave rise to the term '*Sassenach*'<sup>35</sup> not '*limmer*'<sup>36</sup>.

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33 Translating the German tourist boards literature on the district of Limmer which runs something like this '*[The castle Limmer lay central in the rule area of the counts of clearing. ... who called themselves after their master seats in Limmer, ...]*': The earliest documents of Limmer (the town), are thought to be the Count's record of c1190 AD. By this time, Limmer Castle, which had possibly stood on the site in one form or another for five hundred years, was again in the process of being modified by the Count's orders, to accommodate a church and Monastery

34 Barbarians Secrets of the Dark Ages : Richard Rudgley

35 Referring to "Saxon attackers"

36 Referring to the armies that came from Lymme and the Knights of Lymme family

## History of Limmers

It has been argued that Northern Limmers came over with the Romans and stayed. But again, Limmer Hill in the north has little evidence of other settlements around it to suggest a Limmer infiltration during this period.

One attractive theory arises from recent archaeological digs in West Stow, Suffolk. As the population of Saxon Germany declines around 400 AD, the presence of Saxons increases in Suffolk. Dr. Gebuhr, curator of Schleswig museum, claims that in a period of nine years, the large boats built by these Saxons, could have carried at least 30,000 people to settle in Britain.<sup>37</sup> Given the prominence of Suffolk in the family line of Limmer after C1500 AD, where the first wave of Saxons settled, we must ask the question did the name originate there. While the argument against is the lack of place names associated with Limmer in Suffolk holds, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire are, littered with Limmer place-names. This also fits with history.

In 409 AD, Rome came under threat from Vandals and other growing forces. Under this threat, it withdrew its forces from England. Saving face, they declared England fit and ready to defend its own land for Rome. Meanwhile, The Angles and Saxons in Germany were facing hunger from a famine and looking for more lands that are fertile for its people. Thus, they came to England. This first influx in the sixth century was in main Jutes and Angles who were generally the more aggressive tribes. During this time, Limmers appear to be still firmly grounded in their wooden castle near Hamburg, Germany<sup>38</sup> fishing, (or more probably pirating the Danes), in the North Sea. During this period, while aggressively deforesting the forestland, they attracted the attention of the

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37 Barbarians Secrets of the Dark Ages : Richard Rudgley

38 The "English Chronicle"

## Chapter 6 A SECOND LOOK AT THE MAP

Hanoverian<sup>39</sup>.

More likely then, Limmers came with the second wave of angles Saxons immigrating England<sup>40</sup>. After the exile from their own lands, forced out by the armies of Hamburg around 540 AD, they came to these shores as refugees in search of another land. Being excellent long boat builders,<sup>41</sup> they transported their families by the hundred to England. Unable to land on the east coast at Essex as their predecessors had done, (This was now under the control of the King of Mercia), they continued round the coast to a little cove at Felpham.

At Felpham we find our first landmark - Limmer Lane. Limmer Lane is still there today, although it is now a tarmac road on private land. At one time, this lane ran down to a little village cove, long since claimed by the sea. Now the lane comes to a halt at a sea wall. None the less, it is easy to see Saxon ancestors landing in their thirty-foot wooden boats and arriving as refugees from the continent. History has moved on little from those days. Disembarked, our ancestors could quickly scramble up the steep narrow tracked path into the Kings Forest where at last they could relax and feel safe in a landscape similar to the one they had left behind.

Perhaps pioneer relatives welcomed Limmers as they docked, guiding them up the narrow track. This lane, later called Limmer Lane, was a common route for Saxons to travel in and out the dense woods to fish – (or loot). The first Limmer settlement in Hampshire was less than five miles into the forest at a town named Norton.

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39 The Hanoverian, having been Christianised, considered these people to be uncouth and in need of a lesson. So they attacked them ousted them and turned their castle into a monastery.

40 Baeda's "Ecclesiastical History"

41 Archaeological research shows they were skilled boat builders and one estimate is that more than 30,000 came by boat in less than nine years.

## History of Limmers

This is where they left their second mark when they cleared a few trees and dug their first pond<sup>42</sup>. Saxons, being good fishermen, could travel this route to the coast without being noticed. Limmers, having entered Britain this way, no doubt had a boat or two hidden in the little cove that once existed at the end of Limmer lane. This was a little known path in a deserted part of countryside and surrounded by forest, small wonder then, a few hundred years on from this moment of history, Limmer lane would be the ideal spot for smugglers to transport their contraband between shore and woodland. Strangely enough, the heavily taxed contraband being smuggled at this later date was wool.

A limekiln and builders yard at the seaward end of the lane existed some time before the eighteenth century. Limmers, thought to have owned the land for several hundred years, worked the kiln until around 1880. A number of Limmer families grew up around this landmark between 1700 and 1880, but the four hundred year gap between this tracks origin and its later occupants in no way proves them direct descendants.

Of course, safe arrival in Britain had no guarantee. Navigation was good for the day but weather forecasting was not. It may have been bad weather or an unwelcoming committee of soldiers that turned a few boats away from the mainland. Whatever the reason, at least one boat with Limmers on board landed on the Isle of White. Having landed, they were not going back, so they built their camp and marked the land as Limerstone.

I digress, let us return to the immigrants arriving at Felpham. Let us move with them up the steep but narrow Lymmers track, for

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42 Limmer Pond in Norton will be discussed shortly

## Chapter 6 A SECOND LOOK AT THE MAP

about 500 metres. Now we are safe in the king's forest. On, through the forest for another four miles we tramp just as our ancestors did. Here, within the vast forest a Limmer community had set up camp. Arriving at a village now called Norton;<sup>43</sup> Saxon Limmers felled trees, and built houses. However, more than this, they dug the pond bearing their name, after all water is so essential to the village life. That they dug the pond at all suggests they intended to settle here, at least for a while. The Saxon villagers called the amenity Limmer pond, grateful no doubt for this asset. We too are grateful as it served as a landmark to their presence more than a thousand years later. Take note of this pond digging skill - it passes down the generations of Limmers and we will see it again as we examine other sites in Hampshire.

Unfortunately, the pond is no more. It survived long enough to be on the 1845 ordinance survey map but not long enough to survive the intensive farming practices of late twentieth century. There is a landscaped pond nearby at the nursery. This pond can be dated around the mechanical digger era (*C1990 AD*). Some of the people to whom I spoke on a recent visit, referred to it this present water feature as Limmer pond, but others, (who had lived in the village all their lives), still remembered the old landmark. Limmer Pond House, likewise a product of the expanding agricultural nursery complex, takes its name from the ancient pond once at the end of its Garden.

How long those first Limmers stayed in this village cannot be

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43 There are many Nortons or Saxon Villages in England, some have disappeared off the map others remain. It takes a closer investigation of each to discover who the prominent clan within the village was. Some Saxon villages incorporated more than one clan but the chiefs or elders of the clan often left a clue somewhere close by. On this observation I base an assumption that the elders or chiefs of this Norton are Limmers because of the most essential amenity nearby – the pond is named after them.



## History of Limmers

determined. For myself, I feel sure they were there when the monks of Lindsey in Norfolk felt the call to evangelise this area. Who knows if these resident Limmers were the skilled labourers who laid the foundations for the early Saxon church at Aldingbourne C700 AD. Limmers certainly co-operated with the church; if this was not the beginning of a long relationship, it began soon after.

After the king had conquered and unified southern England, these lands were handed over to the Bishop of Winchester. All the Limmer landmarks we mention in this chapter came under the See of Winchester and have a connection to it. Although there is no record of Limmers joining the church as monks or priests, they certainly work within the church organization, (at Guildford Friary and possibly Abingdon for example).

We must hurry along in History by skipping a few hundred years. Not that this is our choice, rather we have no evidence of what Limmers got up to in those between years. The end of the first millennium and the beginning of the second marks a time when we can pick up the story again.

## Chapter 6 A SECOND LOOK AT THE MAP

### *Interlude of Interest 2: The changing face of England*

The face of England has changed by 1000 AD; England has a shape that we can still recognise today. The church is consolidating, the kings are Conquering. These two forces are co-operating to a large degree in order to control most of the land. Where villagers are managing their lands well they were left to do so but under a new system of hierarchy. Peasants answered to village elders, Elders answered to Manors, Manors to hundreds and Hundreds to Lords, barons and sheriffs carefully chosen by the King. Kings, who still have one eye on each other, are forced to unify against bigger hostile enemies from the continent.

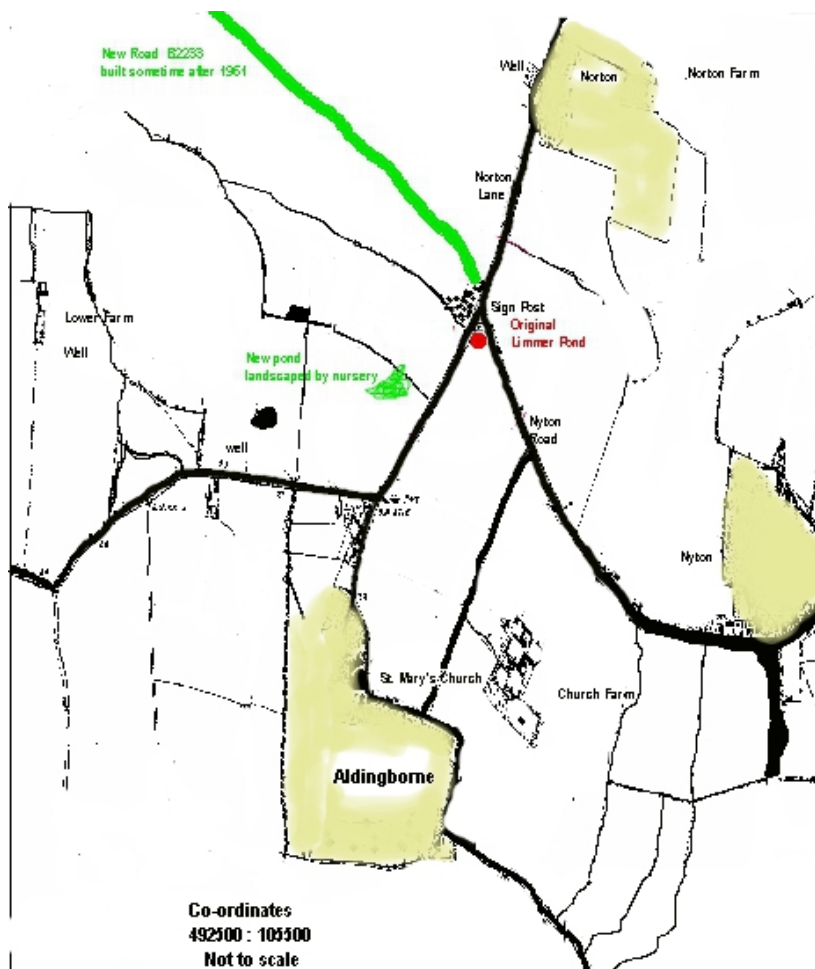
Immigrants by the boatload infiltrate Kent, Essex and Hampshire daily. An elementary system of law and order is established to settle internal disputes. Documentation catches on to satisfy law and order. Manors being obliged to establish local courts to settle land demarcations on the one hand, find the need to document boundaries while on the other being required to raise money for taxes, find the need to document fines and key money transactions.

On a bigger scale, Bede, a monk of the monastery in Monkwearmouth, Jarrow, has a very clear picture of what is going on; documenting the gossip of the day in detail. While the Saxon chronicles record and preserve daily life for history. By 860 AD, wills are being written and respected. The church is gaining uniformed support at a greater rate than Kings who are still fighting each other.

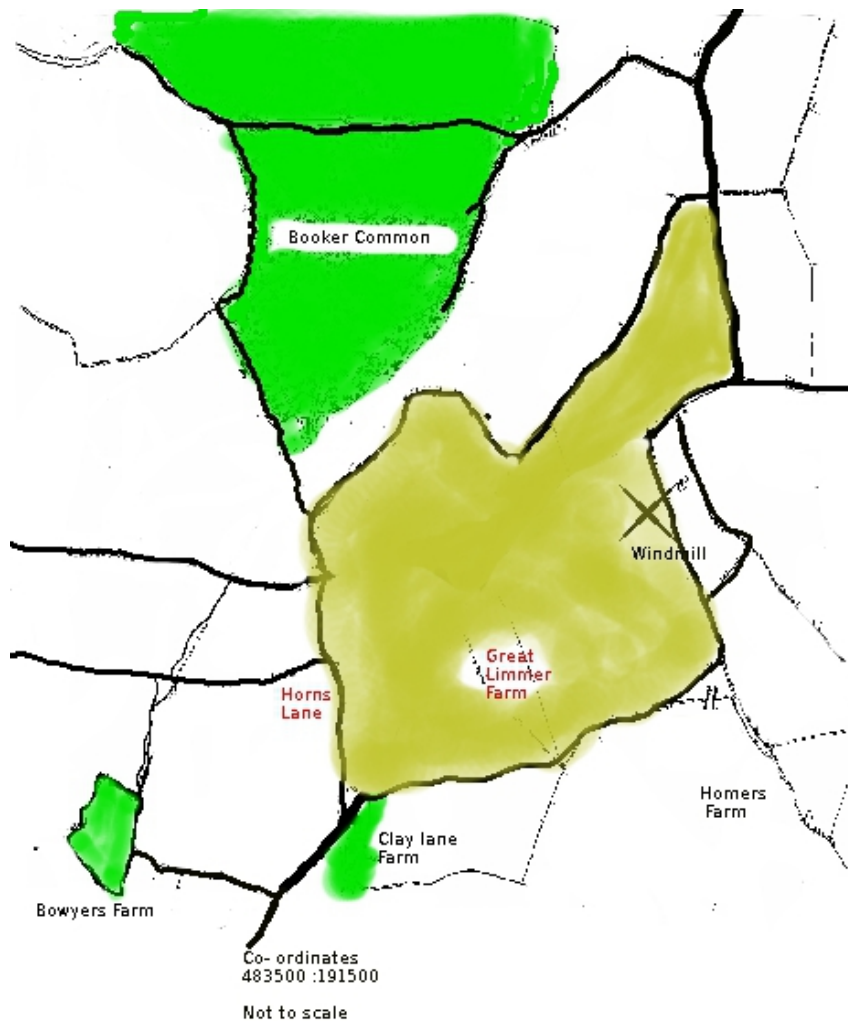
This understanding of history is the springboard for our next investigation into the Limmers.

## History of Limmers

*Map 1: Limmer Pond Aldingbourne Pre 1700 Modern postcode PO20 3TU*



*Map 2: Great Limmer Farm pre 1750 (modern postcode HP12 4QR)*



## History of Limmers



*Figure 7: A Painting of Limmer Cottages*

## Chapter 7 LIMMER LANDMARKS

**A**t the turn of the first millennium, we are still unable to identify individual Limmers but we know they are here, not just in England but particularly in Hampshire<sup>44</sup>. At the same time as Saxon Chief Woke is established his clan in Wokingham<sup>45</sup> and Wokefield, Peter, another Saxon chief, established his clan in Petersfield, Limen (also a Saxon chief), is felling Limpsfield<sup>46</sup> for his people - at such a time as this, Limmer, is found clearing woodland near Long Sutton known as Limmerfeald<sup>47</sup>. This landmark remained on the manorial map for at least five hundred years and probably longer. In March 1568, the tenth year of Queen Elizabeth I reign, Custody of '*Limmerfealds*', which had been assigned to '*Limmer and heirs forever subject to the manorial custom*', came to an end. The land consisted of nine acres of land,

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44 Hampshire was somewhat larger than it is now. The border with Wiltshire in its west side was under dispute until 1300 AD when Hampshire conceded chute forest to Wiltshire, on the east side Guildford changes sides several times. Hampshire's influence if not its boundaries extended north into Berkshire, mainly under the influence of the See of Winchester – Bishops of Winchester had property interest in Berkshire, Wokingham and High Wycombe.

45 Wocca was a Saxon Chieftain who sailed to Britain bringing any number of his kith and kin to settle in this area. Wokingham means 'Wocca's people's home'. While Wokefield means – You guessed it- Wocca's people's home

46 Limpsfield was known by many names - Limenesfeld (xi cent.); Lymenesfeld, Lemnefeld and Lymenesfeld (xiii cent.); Lymefeld, Lemnesfeld (xiv cent.); Lemnysfeld, Lempnesfeld (xv cent.). (I do not think the similarity in name to Limmer significant, it probably means elm-tree ).

47 Limmer Feald is referred to in the Crondal Hundreds and Manor records. The spelling Fealds leaves open the question if it was originally known as Limmerfield or Limmerfelds. Field would denote 'established agricultural lands occupied by Lymmer'. Felds would mean 'forest lands cleared and claimed by Limmer'. While the result is the same, it is more in keeping with the practical skills of Limmers to clear from scratch.

## Chapter 7 LIMMER LANDMARKS

an orchard and an enclosure between long Sutton and Crondal, was given to John Craystone at a manorial hearing.<sup>48</sup> This land had been in the possession of Limmers from the beginning of the manorial system.

This is not the only piece of land occupied by Limmers around Long Sutton. We shall return to Long Sutton when we get to meet and name some of them in the next chapter. But at this point, we can see quite a network of Limmers living in this region. There is no mention of long Sutton church in the doomsday book but there is clear archaeological evidence that a wooden church stood on the present site<sup>49</sup>, probably being built at the same time that Limmers were felling the trees for the new '*Limmerfealds*' round house estate around 950 to 990 AD. Interestingly, we also find a possible introduction of the Limmer family to the See of Winchester at this point. When King Alfred died, he left the kings estates of Long Sutton to his nephew. King Ethelred then granted Long Sutton to Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester. With the church in the back garden of *Limmersfeald*, it is hard to think there is no connection. One thing we may be grateful for, Limmers did not cut down three magnificent yew trees which, estimated to be between 1800 and 2600 years old, still stand today.

Meanwhile, we move on to our next chronological landmark.- Great Limmer Farm at Booker. The term '*Great*' refers to the importance of the farm not its size – although it was one of the larger farms of its day. Once again, we find it owned by the Bishop of Winchester with the rights of possession given to the Limmer family (and heirs forever). The greatness of the farm depended on it being the centre from which the taxes and fines of the neighbouring farms were

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48 Crondal Manorial records court sitting 29th March 1568.

49 A brief guide to All saints Church long Sutton.

## Chapter 7 LIMMER LANDMARKS

collected. As these taxes were often in kind, the farm became the grain store and livestock compound of the area. The commoners of Booker also contributed chickens and other such farm produce. This eventually ended up on the table of the friars, monks and other dignitaries under the See of the Bishop in Winchester.

Wokingham means  
'Wocca's people's home'.

Wocca was a wealthy  
Saxon chieftain who also  
owned lands at Wokefield  
in Berkshire and Woking  
in Surrey

By 1409 AD, the farm had a large manor house, occupied by Limmers and there were two 'cottages' that were also occupied by Limmers before that date<sup>50</sup>. The original cottages have long since gone but on the same site, two later cottages were built, still bearing the name Limmer Cottages today. These later cottages were painted. By Thomas Turner C1850 and the

original picture, (photographed above), belongs to the Marquette family in Canada.

Residents living in Limmer Lane, Booker, before 1950 AD can remember the farm as a working farm. The elderly owner and his unmarried daughter sold the farm for housing and retired to the coast. Great Limmer farm rapidly became a large housing estate through which Limmer Lane runs toward the woodland marking the original track.

Our next landmark, Limmerhill in Basingstoke is less than twelve miles away.<sup>51</sup> Limmer Close is less than one mile from Limmerhill.

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50 Bishop of Winchester's fines and other records – Winchester records office

51 Place names of Buckinghamshire A. Manner and F.M. Stentons :university press 1925. Also, The County Map : Jefferies & Bryant : Buckingham



## Chapter 7 LIMMER LANDMARKS

Limmer Close marks the place of a seven-acre field once belonging to Limmers<sup>52</sup>.

Woose hill, the settlement of another Saxon people, borders Limmer hill on the east side. There is an early windmill marked on the hill but it is close to the border and is unclear if it belonged to Woose or Limmer.

One stronghold for Lymmer was near Newbury. The estates mapped as Lymmer, and the district Lymmer was well established in 1403 AD<sup>53</sup> The Limmer family lived in a large dwelling house known as Lymmer's Manor and may have been there before 1265 AD.<sup>54</sup> When the Fauconer family took over Kingsclere Manor, it was a recognised area. In 1670, one *Thomas Lane*, a yeoman of Lymmer, sold his estate for £340.00<sup>55</sup>. Sometime after this, the name was lost, but the estate was probably at the north end of Kingsclere parish, by the River Enborne.<sup>56</sup>

The next landmark to which our attention is drawn is Limmer Copse and Limmer Pond. Limmer pond, on the Borders of Wiltshire and Hampshire, originally found itself in Hampshire and under the '*Bishopric of Winchester*'. The long-standing boundary dispute between Wiltshire and Hampshire was finally settled around 1500 AD.

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Archaeological society.

52 Ordnance survey maps C1810

53 A History of the County of Hampshire William Page

54 One William Lymmer from Lymmer set up company in Hampshire in 1265 AD – we will meet him in a short while.

55 Receipt Thomas Lane to Abraham Smitheman for £340, purchase money for the estate in D-D/6/88.

56 A History of the County of Hampshire : William Page

## Chapter 7 LIMMER LANDMARKS

Today, you can still take a pleasant stroll from Chute<sup>57</sup>, through Limmer Copse, to see Limmer Pond. Originally attributed to Saxon builders who needed water on higher ground it is still, in the main, as it was built. Referred to as dewponds or meres, these ponds are often found on or near commons or woodlands with common access.<sup>58</sup>

A second pond, dug on the falling side of the pond is landscaped to collect the overflow from the original pond, came later when Limmer Copse was overhauled.

Therein lays another Limmer story. Chute is the village bordering this land. Chute has Roman connections and the causeway runs to north of the village. Enclosing Chute at the time of our ditty, was a forest. Chute's name comes from a word meaning 'wood'. The whole area around Chute was a vast royal hunting chase.

In 1066, Winchester bishopric held the land of Chute as part of its estate. By the end of the 12th Century, the Bishop of Winchester was active in the clearing forestland for cultivation. The population at nearby villages Burghclere, and Highclere increased considerably<sup>59</sup>. With the income from increased rents and tithes, the

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57 Wiltshire County Plan has designated this pond for a special protection order under Historical interest order. See WCC Planning Office.

58 John Chandler, a well respected archaeologist and historian, uses only the phrase '*Saxon sounding name*' to cite evidence of Limmer pond to suggest Saxon origin pointing out that Saxon villages depended on ponds and many have Saxon-sounding names such as Limmer, Dummer or Ashmore. He does not exclude the possibility that the pond was there before Saxon times or that it was named later.

59 From 1209 to 1255 there was a six-fold increase in rent from £4.4s.10d to £29 and an increase in new land of 800 acres. By 1275 the rent roll stood at £36.10s.8d, which represented a further addition of 300 acres. In view of the very small size of the original settlement at Woodhay it is possible that the colonisation of the manor provided an outlet for the whole of the Clere group and it was settled by peasants coming from the surrounding manors

## Chapter 7 LIMMER LANDMARKS

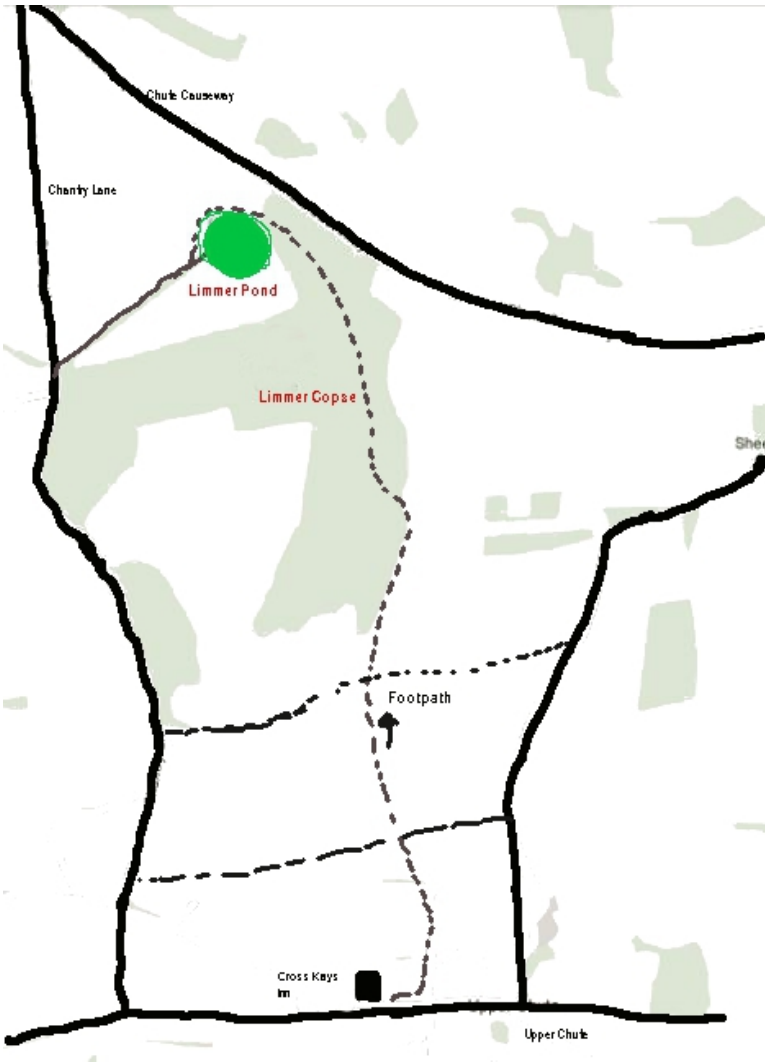
Bishop turned the whole area into an ecclesiastical park. As far as I can ascertain, Limmer copse and Limmer pond were so named during this period of renovation. Travellers travelling the well-worn road from Cirencester to Winchester used a pond marked as being in this vicinity from some time before. Diggers may have put it there in Roman times. Modifications to the pond appear to be carried out during the period of the Bishop William's improvements. The second pond was landscaped on the southern side so designed for the overflow from the first pond to waterfall into the second to cater for the increased volume of water needed for the development. From this time on its name has been Limmer pond.

Using the hug-a-tree method<sup>60</sup> of dating, it would appear that this copse was also renewed or replanted during this period. The replanting would have been necessary in order to have a clear hunting chase from the Bishop's park to the common while skirting around Upper Chute.

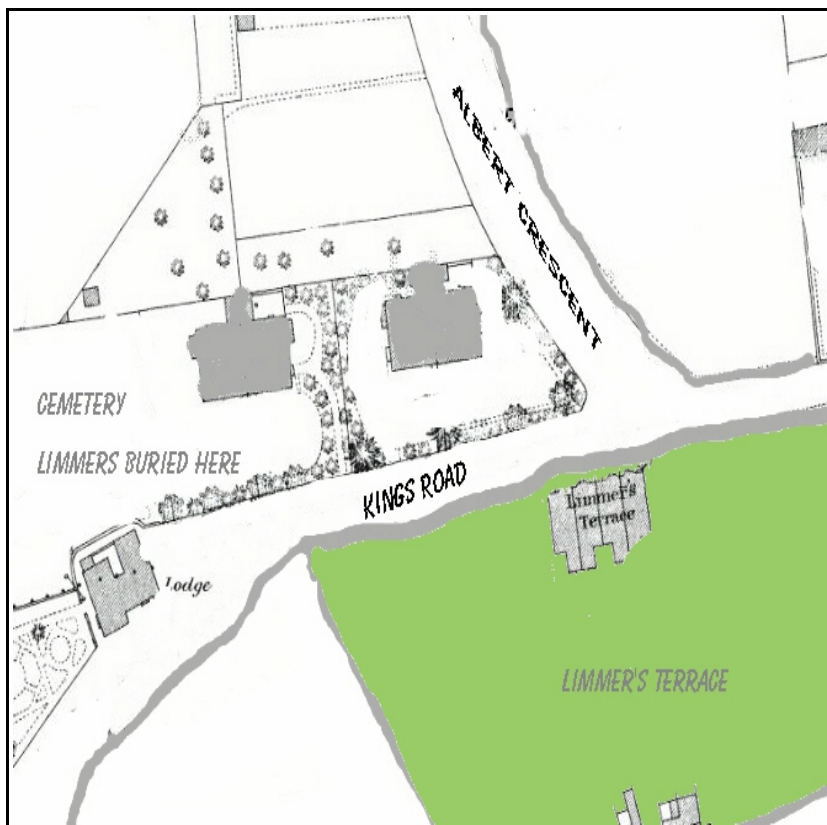
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<sup>60</sup> I have tried, unsuccessfully, to get an archaeological dating on the age of Limmer copse and have therefore turned to this crude estimate of dating. I cannot find any evidence of Limmers being in this area before this development, they may have been but I think it more likely the Bishop employed them from another part of his See. There is good evidence that Limmers worked for the Bishop at Guildford shortly after this period. We will take a look at this in a moment, but it is not easy to determine if Gilford came before Chute or vici- versa.

Map 3: early map of Limmer Copse and Pond at chute Modern postcode SP11 9ER



## History of Limmers



*Map 4: Limmer Terrace as on a pre 1884 town planning map of Saint Mary's district Bury St Edmund*

*coordinates 584613:264112*



*Figure 8: Limmer Copse (top) and Pond (below) Limmer Copse Andover, Wiltshire SP11, UK*

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

**A**s we come to this period of history, we start name-dropping. We first look at one other landmark. This is not particularly a Limmer landmark but rather a place where we find several Limmers. At the same time, we can link these Limmers indirectly to other Limmers living in Hampshire by the fourteenth century.

In 1274 AD, the widow of Henry II, Queen Eleanor, founded a house for Dominican Friars at Guildford. Edward I. granted to the friars the right to enclose the roads leading from Guildford to the royal park and enlarged the whole area for an ecclesiastical park.

Known as '*the Preachers of Gyldeford*', (mainly because it served as a seminary), By 1324 AD this friary housed twenty-four brothers and numerous skilled support staff to service its numerous guest rooms. Its huge gardens included herb gardens for medicine, orchards and well-landscaped horticultural rarities from around the world. So grand was the friary that it attracted most nobility to its hospitality. One king booked the friary for a royal party. So riotous was the party that on leaving, he presented two pounds to cover the cost of damage to vessels and gardens<sup>61</sup>.

The mother of Edward II requested that the friary be given over to Dominican Sisters. Edward wrote to Pope John XXII. in 1318-9, sending two Dominican friars, to plead in person. The Bishop of Winchester, under whose See the friary resided, proposed this nunnery might better be sited in Hampshire at the rectory of

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<sup>61</sup> The evidence for this information can be found in a number of local history books at the Guldford reference library.



## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

Kingsclere.<sup>62</sup> Making representation to the pope, the bishop won the day<sup>63</sup>. There were three Lymmers working at the friary near that time, William<sup>(1389.3)</sup> John<sup>(1390.3)</sup> and John<sup>(1416.4)</sup> <sup>64</sup> This story is told because it is a link between three other Limmer landmarks. Kingsclere, Limmer copse and pond, which formed part of the lands in nunnery of High Clere, and Great Limmer farm which, as a tax storehouse for the Winchester See, indirectly if not directly supplied the friars of Guildford. The clear finding of three Lymmers acting as assistants in the friary and the Friary writings acknowledging that these workers were seconded to kings and gentry for horticultural landscaping and building in return for substantial donations to the friary, links nicely with the landscaping of Limmer copse and Limmer pond around the same time begs a connection. We will return to William, John and young John in a moment.

‘Now’, as they say, "Let's meet the family".

Top of the list of discoveries are two Lymmers from Lymmer<sup>65</sup>.

John Lymer born around 1225 AD<sup>66</sup> was a practical man of the building trade. Of course it was all wooden buildings for the

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62 We have already seen Kingsclere was where Limmer estates were established

63 As a matter of interest in 1336 the pope ordered the Bishop of Winchester to reconcile the differences with one Arnold Lym who had left the convent, presumably with others, over doctrinal differences.

64 William Bassette's will NRO FLT1 / 168 23x3

65 The records show William as 'of Lymmer' which suggest he came from Lymmer, Kingsclere. The other two are not identified by a place but are clearly of the same family.

66 we are guessing at the birth dates because the records only show when the companies were set up, but the fact that William was from Lymmer in Hampshire, moved to Norfolk and set up a business at the same time as two other Lymmers suggests they moved down as a family.

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

common folk of the day then, but Brickworks mortared with lime was the up and coming thing. Presumably John<sup>(1235.U)</sup> was the father because he established the company as Limer & Co. in 1260 AD, William<sup>(1243.U)</sup> Lymmer took over the business in 1265 renaming it as William Lymmer & Co.<sup>67</sup>. Adam<sup>(1245.U)</sup> Lymmer branched out in Cambridge the same year as Adam Lymmer & Co. Little more than this is known of these men and there is a gap before our next Lymmers are found in Norfolk.

Family\_Line\_1:

**Thomas<sup>(1290.U)</sup>  
& Emma**

Thomas<sup>(1290.U)</sup> Lymmer<sup>68</sup>, born C1290, and his wife Emma, owned a moiety<sup>69</sup> and a Messuage at Wallingford. It seems Thomas was late in paying his crusade tax in 1317 AD, and a writ had been taken out on his property. Thomas was not alone as there was a very bad harvest that year<sup>70</sup>. Richard le Barbor the kings crusade tax collector<sup>71</sup>, drew up a bond to pay the tax, redeem the writ and reclaim the value of 40 shillings from Thomas and his wife from the farm in the form of produce<sup>72</sup>.

Family\_Line\_2:

**Robert<sup>(1317.U)</sup>**

Pushing Northwest from here to Bishops Manor near Witney, Robert<sup>(1317.U)</sup> Lymmer,<sup>73</sup> in partnership with one John Welewe, leased the four mills of the bishop's manor for the lifetime of the bishop for a

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67 Possibly the year John<sup>(1225.U)</sup> died

68 Reading RO w/rtb 54 : Wallingford Nov 1317 Sunday St Martins the Bishop II Edward II

69 Moiety = part share : Messuage = dwelling.

70 Britain in the crusading years.

71 Richard le Barbor - Parliamentary burgesses for Colchester: The Men Behind the Masque: Office-holding in East Anglian boroughs, 1272-1460

72 [comment : It sounds like a fiddle going on to me it does not say how much the original tax was, but the going rate was about a half of that].

73 page 563 the register of bishop of Eddington : Winchester records Office

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

quarterly rent of £14:13s 4d in January 1347.

Family\_Line\_ 3:

**John**<sup>(1360.U)</sup>

William<sup>(1389.3)</sup>

John<sup>(1390.3)</sup>

John Lymmer was born C1360 AD at Great Limmer Farm. John grew up on the farm and eventually took over its running until 1409 AD. John<sup>(1360.U)</sup> had taken over the lease from his father when he died. Since then he had raised at least two sons and his influence with the Bishop of Winchester had been useful in securing them work in a new venture being undertaken by the Bishop.

By 1409 AD, black death had taken its toll on the family of Limmers in Hampshire. John's close family may well have fallen victim to this plague. At the death of John in 1409 AD<sup>74</sup>, the farm passed from the Limmer line. On the death of John<sup>(1390.3)</sup>, the Bishop informed the male relatives in accordance with the custom of the manor but none of these wanted to take up their rightful option on the farm<sup>75</sup>. The bishop then agreed one John Lyle and his wife Isabel, should be rightful tenants upon payment of an entrance fee of three shillings and four pence. Isabel may have been a sister of John and William who had married into the Lyle family. This seems likely because John and Isabel only paid an entrance fee costs and not a full new contract fee required by new tenants, this was a concession given to those taking over a contract within a family or descending through a daughter of the family.

The farm consisted of a Messuage, sixteen-and-one-half acres with

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74 I suspect but cannot prove that John died of the black death especially with rats running around the grain store.

75 We know there were at least two relatives entitled to take up this option working in Guilford friary at the time. The option probably seemed like a poor deal to them as they would have had to give up what seems to be both lucrative and influential jobs. The manorial code was written in such a way as exclude 'gentleman farmers' or Part time farmers.

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

another Message in one-sixth part of one acre of land, surrounded by eleven acres of arable & one rood of pasture-land<sup>76</sup> nearby<sup>77</sup>, this second site later became the site of the rebuilt Limmer cottages previously mentioned.<sup>78</sup> This farm finally became a Housing estate in the 1950's and the only remaining memory today is Limmer lane marks the western boundary of the original farm.

Family\_Line\_ 4:

**John**<sup>(1390.3)</sup>

**&**

**unknown**

John<sup>(1416.4)</sup>

*from family line 3  
page 79*

The two sons, William and John, learned building and landscape gardening<sup>79</sup>. John<sup>(1390.3)</sup> and William<sup>(1389.3)</sup>, lived in the tenements built by the bishop of Winchester while the Friary and the church of the Holy Trinity were still under his care at the beginning of the fourteenth century. Possibly, John and William helped build these workers tenements- along with the guest houses frequented by kings and nobility sampling the Friars extravagant hospitality.

How these two came into the bishop's employ is not proven but given the link with Great Limmer farm and Their father's association with the Bishop, it seems a logical route.

John's<sup>(1360.U)</sup> father, and his uncles had lived at Great Limmer Farm. Thus, a good relationship with the bishopric cemented. There is no evidence to tell if William<sup>(1389.3)</sup> married but John<sup>(1390.3)</sup> did. By 1428, John had at least one son working with him in the friary.

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76 Pipe Rolls 1409 bishopric of Winchester

77 presently situated on the south side of the M40 motorway

78 *ibid*

79 These two and the son of John worked in Guildford Friary but not as friars. Guildford Friary was renowned for its building and gardens and its workers were loaned out to many aristocracy including kings in exchange for healthy donations to the bishopric

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

Family\_Line\_ 5:

**William**<sup>(1389.3)</sup>

In a ceremony of 1363 AD, at Highclere church, a young graduate by the name of William Bassett entered the friary. When he died as an old man in 1428, he had established himself as a leading friar in the order. In his will, he acknowledged

William<sup>(1389.3)</sup> by leaving him six shillings and eight pence<sup>80</sup>.

John<sup>(1390.3)</sup> senior received forty pence and John<sup>(1416.4)</sup> junior received a bullock. The friars and priests received twenty pence each<sup>81</sup>.

By the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, nuclear Limmer families were moving northward to Bedfordshire<sup>82</sup>

Family\_Line\_ 6:

**Thomas**<sup>(1479.U)</sup>

**&**

**unknown**

Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1502.6)</sup>

Thomas<sup>(1479.U)</sup>, born C1479, in Buckleigh, (Now absorbed into Baker's Wood, Denton), may be the head of this, our next family. He married around 1501/2. His eldest Daughter Mary<sup>(1502.6)</sup>, born C1502, Buckleigh Bedfordshire is probably the spinster who died and was buried In Stanstead, Suffolk 1558 AD. We find Thomas living between Potton and Southill after 1508 AD.

John<sup>(1470.U)</sup> Limmer came next. He may also have been born in Bedfordshire, though he is later to be found in

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80 From the amounts recorded, we might speculate that William was a charge man responsible for overall maintenance. John junior receiving a bullock tells us he was a minor under 14 years of age – hence I estimate his date of birth around 1416 AD.

81 Will of William Bassett 1428 AD: Hampshire records Office

82 Mary, Thomas and Anne appear to be one family – Records from Witley Hundreds Somerset Archives. This family may be cousins to John Junior son of John<sup>(1510.U)</sup> who are mentioned in bequest to churches Suffolk Records Office. John Senior may have been William's Brother.

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

Family\_Line\_7:

**John<sup>(1470.U)</sup>**

**&**

**unknown**

----- Children possibly -----

Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup>

John<sup>(1498.7)</sup>

Rebecca<sup>(1507.7)</sup>

Christopher<sup>(1507.7)</sup>

Lavenham. By the turn of the century we find *John Lymmor Cloth and Sail maker and fuller (treating of cloth)*<sup>83</sup>. John made a bequest to several churches including Clare and Groton. When John died in 1529, His son John the younger, (John<sup>(1498.18)</sup>), took over the business.

*Lymmer's Sail Cloth company* was still running well under the control of John's descendent in 1586 AD when sailcloth and other cloths were being exported to France via Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup>

Lymmer<sup>84</sup> who had set up a merchant trading

company<sup>85</sup>.

Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup> was an enterprising young man, By 1576 he had purchased a Capital Messuage and land in Otley<sup>86</sup> Norfolk. By 1587, Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup> Lymmer had become bailiff to Lord Hunsdon, Lord Chamberlain<sup>87</sup>. In 1593, he had been promoted to (or rather purchased), the title of Robert Lymmer, Portman of Ipswich from Edward Goodinge of Ipswich<sup>88</sup>. In 1580 he was made a Governor of the Ipswich hospital<sup>89</sup> and in 1593 he had solicitors from Shottisham draw up his will. The will did not become active until he died in 1606. Robert Lymmer having been made magistrate in Ipswich a little before he died. The said Robert was buried the 9th of

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83 Description of Will of John Lymmor, Fuller and Cloth-worker of Lavenham, Suffolk Date 25 February 1529 Catalogue reference PROB 11/23

84 Bacons Annuls of Ipswich : Sail cloth was used for ships and windmills.

85 Robert Lymmer, merchants trading to France Select charter of trading companies 1530-1709 page 66

86 1575 -1599 Capital Messuage and land in Otley 2) Ipswich Borough Archives Vol 43

87 FILE - William Smarte and Robert Lymmer, Bailiffs, to Lord Hunsdon, Lord Chamberlain [of the Household]

88 1593 evidence of Title for purchase by Robert lymmer , portman of Ipswich from Edward Goodinge of Ipswich Gent 20 Dec. 1593

89 Bacons Annuls of Ipswich

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

May 1606. <sup>90</sup>

That Lymmers sail cloth company and Robert were in a league together becomes more evidence when in the night<sup>91</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1592, Lymmer's company, put about two-hundred-and sixty cloths onto eight horse drawn carts and transported them to Orford<sup>92</sup>, a small branch of Yarmouth port. Smuggling them onto a ship bound for Bordeaux, they returned home thinking to make a good profit that night. Unfortunately the ship met foul winds and weather and had to put in at Harwich where Customs officers boarded and seized '*Divers Cloths of the said Lymmer's, her Majesty*<sup>93</sup> *was benefited by the seizure of them*'.<sup>94</sup> A few red faces were seen I suspect, when Robert received the following letter from Head Office:

***At last vintage to Bordeaux one Lymmer, a merchant of our town, practising the like fraud, sent his cloths to Orford and there shipped them, which by fold weather were put into Harwich, out of which ship our searcher took divers cloths of the said Lymmer's, the custom of them being stolen at Orford, and her Majesty was benefited by the seizure of them. Pray him to write to the customer and controller of***

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90 1606 Robert Lymmer being a magistrate in Ipswich a little before he died *the sayed* Robert was buried the ix day of May 1606. Notes and Queries connected with the counties of Suffolk Norfolk Essex Vol 2

91 I was tempted to write '*one moonless night*' to add a bit of drama but I have no evidence for that.

92 As Harwich was the nearer port to John<sup>(1470.U)</sup> Lymmer's factory the connection with Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup> Lymmer, Portman of Ipswich begs consideration.

93 Queen Elizabeth 1

94 'Cecil Papers: April 1596, 1-15', Calendar of the Cecil Papers in Hatfield House, Volume 6: 1596(1895), pp. 132-145

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

***Alborowe and Orford to forbear to take entry of any cloths of any merchants of Ipswich, and that the custom of all cloths packed at Ipswich shall be paid there.—Ipswich, 6 April, 1596.***

Perhaps it was due to Robert's good offices that they got away with it so lightly.

Returning to family line 6, Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup>, was born next around 1505. Thomas appears to gone into the merchants business also but His line was more likely to be cereals. Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup> seems to have made his journey northward in two stages. First he moved to Potton, Bedfordshire where we find him witnessing a will in 1552. our next sighting of him is in Sudbury Suffolk writing his own will in 1570.

95

Family\_Line\_ 8:

**Edward<sup>(1480.U)</sup>**

**&**

**unknown**

Ann<sup>(1509.8)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1510.8)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1520.8)</sup>

Meanwhile, Edward<sup>(1480.U)</sup> owned a messuage from which he worked a small piece of land known as Lymer Field. Lymer Field bordered the graveyard of Saint George's church in Edworth on one side and Baker's wood on the other side of his smallholding. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1517 Edward, a husbandman of Edworth, became involved in a law dispute with a lawyer of 'Henyworth'. The dispute, which may have been about rights of way<sup>96</sup>, lasted for a year until April 21<sup>st</sup> 1518.

The address and age of Edward<sup>(1480.U)</sup> tells us he is probably brother to Thomas<sup>(1479.U)</sup> who was farming within a few

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95 St Gregory Wills and Admons 1570

96 The record of the dispute is documented but not detailed.



## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

miles of Edward<sup>(1480.U)</sup> at the time. Edward<sup>(1480.U)</sup> married around 1506 in St George's church and his eldest daughter Ann<sup>(1509.8)</sup>, married John Spencer in Edworth, Bedfordshire, at the age of 21 she was married in St George's church in Edworth on 16 June 1530. Edworth was only a small community at the time, John's mother was part of the Baker family whose wood butted Edward's land so, the Bakers, Spencers and Lymmers were all close neighbours.

Ann died in Edworth aged 51 on 20 June 1560<sup>97</sup>. The entry under '*the burial of Ann Spencer*', in the church records paid her the following tribute:

*. . . good hospitality keeper; she did give to the town of Edworth of her best bease(beasts) to be lett for pore folks in the towne a cow. the parson & churchwarden to have the letting of them & the distributing of the money to the poore & to see the stock meinteined.*

Ann's will, dated 13 June 1560, names her sister, Elizabeth<sup>(1520.8)</sup> Lymmer, to have 4 shillings on her marriage (as Ann was 51 when she died Elizabeth clearly married late in life). Brother Edward's children were to have 1 shilling.

Our next family group has three young ladies. Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup>, stayed in Bedfordshire when his father moved to Norfolk around 1532 AD<sup>98</sup>. Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup> married a wife and they raised a family, all to

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97 Spencer Family History : Sam Behling 1999 & The Spencers of Bedford, Holding, 1903 :

About 10 metres from the church yard is Lymmer field and in the church of St George there is a brass tablet 'In Memory of John and Ann Spencer'

98 I deduce this because Ann<sup>(1509.8)</sup> was married in Bedfordshire 1530, and Thomas<sup>(1505)</sup> described his home address as Potton in 1532. Thomas

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

Family\_Line\_ 9:

**Thomas**<sup>(1504.6)</sup>

**&**

**Unknown Wytte**

Agnes<sup>(1530.9)</sup>

Joan<sup>(1532.9)</sup>

Alyce<sup>(1535.9)</sup>

*From Family Line 6  
page 81*

be baptised in the area of Potton Bedfordshire. All the family members are, (at varying ages), noted within a three-mile radius of Biggleswade

Agnes<sup>(1530.9)</sup>, Born C1530 in Potton, followed her aunt's example and married into the Spencer Family. She married Michael Spencer<sup>99</sup> On 20th January 1555/6 in Edworth. Agnes was left a bullock<sup>100</sup> from uncle William Wytte's will. Agnes died 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1561 and being buried in Edworth.

Joan<sup>(1532.9)</sup>, Baptism in Southill March 18<sup>th</sup> 1532<sup>101</sup> Little else is known of Joan.

Alyce<sup>(1535.9)</sup>, Baptised in Southill in February 1535, was said to be of Biggleswade.<sup>102</sup>

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inherited the farmland from his father and farmed it while living in the tenement at Southill. He also signed as witness to a will there in the same year .

99 Spencer Family History : Sam Behling 1999 & The Spencers of Bedford, Holding, 1903 : Michael probably had 3 wives Agnes Lymmer died 1561, Ann Lorimer , died before 1576, and Elizabeth.

100 Will of William Wytte :Bedfordshire records office

101 Joan(1532.9) Lymmer March 18 Baptism of Southill Joan(1532.9), : Bishop transcripts Buckingham & Luton Records office.

102 Bishop transcripts Buckingham & Luton Records office.

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

Family\_Line\_ 10:

**James**<sup>(1518.U)</sup>

**&**

**Alyce**

Alice<sup>(1541.10)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1543.10)</sup>

Meanwhile, the national scene is being set for the Reformation. Henry VIII starts his argument with the pope, Thomas Wolsey is being installed as cardinal and a young student named Martin Luther is working on his thirty nine articles. Oblivious to this, in a quiet little Hampshire village called long Sutton, James<sup>(1518.U)</sup>, '*rightful son and heir of Limmer Fealds and Limmer Messuage*'<sup>103</sup> is meeting a young lady named Alyce. By 1538 they were married and happily keeping sheep and growing fruit on their smallholding.

The parents of James are not known but the birthplace is an ancient manorial holding known as '*Limmer Fealds*'. The couple had bought a messuage an orchard and virgate of land, and another close and orchard similarly called '*Lymmer's field*' containing nine acres of land.<sup>104</sup> On the death of James, (James died in 1574)<sup>105</sup> these were part rented and part sold. John Craynston, contracted to work this land – presumably the rent going to the Alyce and her daughters. At the same court hearing, Hugh Welshe, contracted for a garden and an orchard and half virgate of land in Crondal, also a meadow, 2 closes called *parke*, a five acres field and another field of seven acres '*previously belonging to Lymmer*'<sup>106</sup> Alyce was a lady of means in her own right now and had property in Denton<sup>107</sup>.

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103 Crondal The hundreds and manor of 1568 Page 359 Lymmers field Long Sutton 1586 march 29 tenth reign of Elizabeth.

104 Crondal The hundreds and manor of 1568 Page 359 Lymmers field Long Sutton 1586 march 29 tenth reign of Elizabeth.

105 Bishops transcripts Long Sutton Hampshire

106 Crondal The hundreds and manor of 1568 the Crondal records part 1 page 197 Lymmers

107 Alice Lymmer's Will 1582 : Hampshire records office. A property in Denton leads to the suspicion Bedfordshire and Hampshire Lymmers are close relations

## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

Alice was their first Daughter, born early in 1541. Elizabeth was born eighteen months later in Autumn 1542. Elizabeth<sup>(1543.10)</sup> married first, into the Smith (Smie) family. She and her husband appear to have a business in Gosport. On her marriage, Elizabeth moved to Gosport, (presumably the home place of her husband) and continued to work as a brass Painer<sup>108</sup>. This may be the same Elizabeth, a business woman, who is found widowed in Barningham in 1578, under her maiden name of Elizabeth Lymmer.<sup>109</sup> As Elizabeth had no other property allocated to her in Alyce's will, I presume this part of the business was handed to them as a dowry on their wedding.

Alice<sup>(1541.10)</sup> meanwhile, stayed with her mother in a house at long Sutton. On the death of her Mother Alyce in 1581, Alice received the house in Long Sutton while Elizabeth<sup>(1543.10)</sup> took the remaining stock of brass pots under the '*movable and immovable goods not previously given*' clause of the will. One year after her mother's death in 1582, Alice<sup>(1541.10)</sup> married Richard Rigg on 1 July<sup>110</sup> Presumably, she closed the brass pot business in Long Sutton. The business is described in the will of Alyce as '*Alyce Brasse potte (porringer) A Potte monger*'<sup>111</sup>, Denton'.

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but there is no clear evidence of this. The will refers to 'Alyce of Long Sutton'. The name of business mentioned 'Alyce Brasse potte and A pot monger, Denton' suggests the second property was there. Although the word 'Denton' is not easily deciphered.

108 Shaping pots by hammering them into a wooden template.

109 'Index to Wills at Norfolk.

110 Phillimore's Hampshire Parish Records Volume 5

111 A porringer is a pot often used by seamen or traders to eat food out of. It is also known as a poddenge or a potenger.

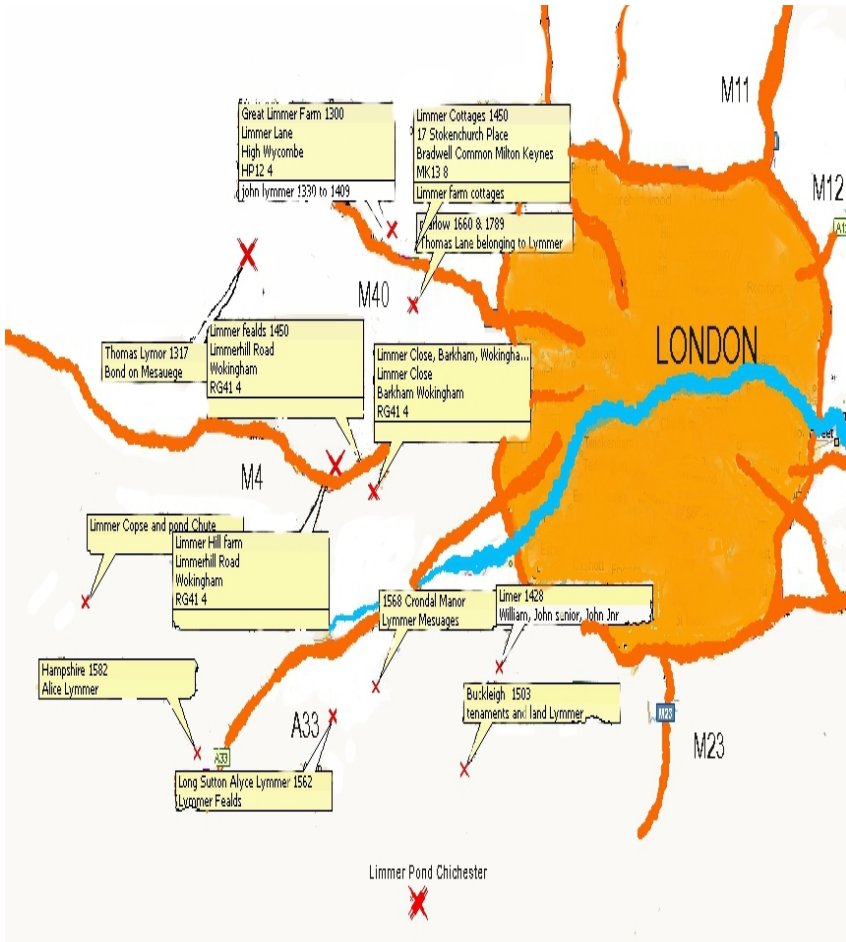
## Chapter 8 MEET THE FAMILY

## Part 3

# Direct descendants

# History of Limmers

Map 5: Early Limmers in Hampshire



## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

**H**istory is about to repeat itself as we begin part three. The royal house of Hanover squeezed Lymmers out of Limmer, Germany in 800 AD. Now the royal house of Tudor is about to squeeze Lymmers from Limmer in Berkshire. Where will they go this time? Many have already spread themselves widely over England by now. Families of Limmers can be seen throughout Hampshire, Essex, Cornwall, London, Northampton, Surrey, Wiltshire and Yorkshire. Most of this branch will go further north to Suffolk. A few will leave these shores as their pioneering ancestors did all those years ago.

Although there is no record of emigration on the white sails or the Mayflower, nuclear families embark on sailing ships to emigrate, to New Zealand. One family, a corn merchant, Sailed to USA from Norfolk. It does not seem to have suited them as they return a few years later to set up home and business in Bury-Saint-Edmunds. By the late eighteen-hundreds the more adventurous emigrate by steam ships to Canary Islands, Congo (Zaire), Australia and Canada<sup>112</sup>.

Why did Limmers move so markedly as the time turned into the sixteenth century? We must first remind ourselves that Limmer's fortunes, up until now, had been tied closely with the church. Their lands and houses had, if not been rewards from the church, were opportunities taken as land from this source became available. Two things were about to happen. First, the Tudors took the throne. Henry VII, an obsessive fun seeking sportsman, used his full authority to seize land to make his hunting and archery

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112 According to Passenger lists from British ports, during 1865 – 1914, at least 55 Limmers travelled to these destinations.



## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

more exiting. Much of this land centred around Hampshire and Buckinghamshire. King Henry VIII, who spent most of younger days in hunting, horse riding, archery, falconry and wrestling, seized even more lands than his father.

Second, Henry VIII's anger at the Pope for not letting him have his own way over his divorce issue was taken out on the church. Seizing more than eight-hundred priories and monasteries, he contributed greatly to the movement and fortunes of Limmers.

As we have seen, the estates of Limmer before the turn of the fourteen hundreds, centred on the landmark of Kingsclere. As with many other estates of the time it spread wide over Crondal Hundred, from Long Sutton in the south to Kingsclere in the north of the hundred.<sup>113</sup>

'Kingsclere' began in the 13th century. From Alfred to King John the village had a long association with the Kings of England. But this was no more than a passing association as Kingsclere was en route to Freemantle Park, the royal hunting estate which existed until the 17th Century.

Our link, of course, is the See of Winchester. The Manor and its lands were under the control of the priory from around 1336<sup>114</sup> when it was granted to the Monastery of Berkshire. It was

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113 See Lands held by Lymmer Interlude\_of\_Interest 3 page 105 Most of this list was farmed by Lymmers pre 1550 but was relinquished in what seems to be three workable units.

Sources: Long Sutton, A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 4 ; also, Documents and records relating to the hundred and manor of Crondal in Hampshire. Part 5 (Page 156-258) and Kingsclere papers Chan. Inq. p.m. (ser. 2), cclxviii, 134.

114 A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 4.

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

probably around this time Limmers moved in and the whole district became known as “Lymmer”. In 1540 the king seized it and granted it to Anne of Cleves on his marriage<sup>115</sup>. The following year he granted it for life to Catherine Howard.

Whether Limmers saw it coming and moved quickly or whether they took the compensation and set up in Suffolk is not clear but the coincidental exodus of Limmers from Buckingham to Suffolk and the disappearance of the landmark Limmer at this time requires we consider this as a major cause.

At least one family appears near Ipswich, Norfolk in the early 1500's, Rebecca<sup>(1507.7)</sup> <sup>116</sup> Lymmer married one Enoch Cleare in

Family\_Line\_11:

**John**<sup>(1498.7)</sup>

**&**

**Margaret**

Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup>

Roger<sup>(1525.11)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1527.11)</sup>

Gilbert<sup>(1529.11)</sup>

William<sup>(1530.11)</sup>

Joan<sup>(1531.11)</sup>

*From Family Line 7  
page 82*

1540 at St Ethedred, Norwich both of Trowse Milgate about one mile south east of Ipswich<sup>117</sup> Rebecca's brother was a pewterer of the parish of St Stephen's, was elected to the Twenty-Four and the office of Chamberlain in 1511. His son Philip and daughter Mary were the beneficiaries of his will in 1558 and, as was common at the time, probably continued with the pewterer's craft although there is no record of it.

Clearer evidence of this family's move around this time emerges when we put a pin in the map at Glemsford, Suffolk and draw a four mile radius where we find at least two nuclear families of

Lymmer.

115 Ibid.

116 Rebecca<sup>(1507.7)</sup> and Christopher<sup>(1514-7)</sup> are probably a group of siblings- cousins to : Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup>, Mary<sup>(1502.6)</sup> and Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup> see Family Line 6 page 81.

117 St Etheldred Parish Register Rebecca<sup>(1507.7)</sup> Lymmer married Enoch Cleare . Norwich St Ethedred both of Trowse Milgate 1540.

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

One documented family can clearly be seen in residence at Stanford in the early 1500's. As I see it, John<sup>(1498.7)</sup> and Margaret started life in Melford. John was on a tenant farm keeping pigs perhaps with his parents while Margaret was living round the corner with her parents in a house in South-Gate Street. Judging by Margaret's strong declaration of faith and above average understanding of church doctrine, I guess she was daughter of a church dignitary.<sup>118</sup> She was also politically aware. At a time when Elizabeth, strongly supported a Church of England rather than subjection to Rome, Margaret nailed her allegiance to the door in the opening dedication of her will to: "*our sovereign lord and lady Brigadier Gilbert and Queen Mary,*"<sup>119</sup> who championed for the Pope.

John<sup>(1498.7)</sup> on the other hand, a logical, practical Lymmer, clearly kept his head down and left politics to his wife. He stated simply "*I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body to be buried in the church yard of Stanford -as for my mortal goods these I distribute ... as follows:*"<sup>120</sup>

Soon after their marriage, this couple moved home to a larger tenant farm in Stanford. What can we say of Stanford except that it was there before Saxon times, probably having a vibrant Saxon village surrounding the church, but by the time of John and Margaret Lymmer there were only two or three families in an area you would hardly call a village. The farm seems to have

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118 From the will : I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker, redeemer and receive everlasting strength, the might of his glorious victory, and mighty restitution and to partake of his heavenly kingdom among his holy and blessed saint. My body to be buried in the church yard of Stanford aforesaid. She was clearly well versed in the theology of her church and forthright in declaring it.

119 Margaret's will 1558.

120 John's will 1558.

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

surrounded the farm house and a block of tenements. The will shows that John and Margaret harvested rye, corn, kept bullocks, (which were probably used for ploughing), pigs and a goat for milk and cheese. Margaret left her daughter two Bushel<sup>121</sup> of Rye, which, besides feeding the bullocks and pigs, also

made bread. From the long list of worldly goods mentioned in Margaret's will, they lived well and comfortable. In the bedrooms there were at least two four poster beds, curtains and drapes, (besides other feather beds), while the kitchen housed half a dozen kettles and duplicates of pots, pans and other farm house paraphernalia.

Family\_Line\_12:

**Roger**<sup>(1525.11)</sup>

**&**

**Joan**

John<sup>(1553.12)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1554.12)</sup>

Cirelie<sup>(1556.12)</sup>

*From family line 11*

*Page 94*

The farm was not big enough to split among the family of six, so John and Margaret tried to cover every eventuality by keeping it as a going concern under the eye of eldest son Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup>.

Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup> was to pay each of his remaining siblings out of the profits, (William and Gilbert had died by the time of the will, and Roger who seems to be self sufficient on the original smallholding in Melford).

Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup> was also required under the will, to invest a sum over a period of years for the grandchildren. John<sup>(1498.7)</sup> had set up a trustee named John Bassett for William's<sup>(1530.11)</sup> children, John<sup>(1553.12)</sup> and Edward<sup>(1554.12)</sup>.

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121 A sack of rolled rye would weigh around 60 lbs or 26 kg - enough for a year's bread making.

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

Margaret separately left her property in South-gate street, (from which it seems she was receiving rent), to Thomas and his offspring.<sup>122</sup>

Shortly before John<sup>(1498.7)</sup> Died in 1558<sup>123</sup>, he and Margaret moved from the farm house into the attached tenement. Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup> took over the running of the farm in 1556<sup>124</sup>. Within a year of John's<sup>(1498.7)</sup> death his wife Margaret also died and Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup>, who had the rights of tenancy,<sup>125</sup> sub let the tenement to Margaret Mayhewe, the widowed niece of a property dealer from Essex. The lease started from 1559 to 8<sup>th</sup> June 1569. In August that year it appears to have been sold to John Church, while Margaret Mayhewe, (now Mrs Robert Twyd), continued to live as tenant.<sup>126</sup> The questions arises, did Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup> sell the farm at the same time? And if so where did he go? It is probable that Thomas died that year<sup>127</sup> John<sup>(1498.7)</sup> and Margaret had established that Thomas' eldest son, John<sup>(1549.13)</sup> should become the rightful owner of the farm on the death of Thomas<sup>128</sup>. This being so, it would have been John<sup>(1549.13)</sup> who sold the tenements to John Church while continuing to farm the land

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122 Margaret's will clearly states this is not the tenement : "I give and bequeath to said Thomas my son all of my house (not the appurtenure) as it is, lying and being in Melford in South gate street to him and his offspring forever".

123 Implied from the will of John ' Thomas shall receive his inheritance'.

Probably John's father had stipulated Thomas was to receive the farm after John's death.

124 Land transfer documents imply John and Margaret had moved out of the farm house and into the tenement before John's death:

125 HA 519/2049 1558-1626 Netherhall in Stanstead court rolls.

126 Ibid

127 Thomas Lymmer will written 1569 : - St Gregory - Wills and Admons 1570 - 157 DD/2P/1/24 .

128 From the Will of John : *I will Thomas my son shall leave to John his son the house and land I do give to him by this my will that for the said John pay his legacies due his forever is bound by this my will.*

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

from the farm house.

### **Family\_Line\_13:**

**Thomas**<sup>(1524.11)</sup>

**&**

**Unknown**

John<sup>(1549.13)</sup>

Thomas<sup>(1551.13)</sup>

George<sup>(1553.13)</sup>

James<sup>(1555.13)</sup>

*From family line 11  
Page 94*

While the eldest son Thomas<sup>(1524.11)</sup> was being groomed to take on the larger farm at Stanford, Second son Roger<sup>(1525.11)</sup> had was being groomed to farm pigs on the smallholding at Melford. Roger<sup>(1525.11)</sup> met Joan, and decided it was time to marry. They married around 1551, and after the family tradition named the first male child John<sup>(1553.12)</sup> after Granddad. Edward<sup>(1554.12)</sup> was born next around 1554, If Joan was named after auntie Joan<sup>(1532.9)</sup> perhaps Cirelie<sup>(1556.12)</sup> was named after someone on Mum's side. Roger may have died in 1595 aged 70.<sup>129</sup>

### **Family\_Line\_14:**

**Edward**<sup>(1527.11)</sup>

*From family line 11  
Page 94*

Edward<sup>(1527.11)</sup> was still single. But he is clearly setting up home from the list of things Margaret left to him. Besides a regular annual allowance from the farm and his father's best suit, he received a mirror, dinner service (of Pewter), candlestick for the dining room, bed and bed covers, pillows blankets and sheets for the bedroom and kettles pans and pots for the kitchen. He also had a bullock of 2 years from

the farm. Where Edward went to or what he did for a living remains a mystery.

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129 Bury records office index files: Roger Lymmer buried - 1595.

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

Family\_Line\_15:

**Gilbert**<sup>(1529.11)</sup>

&

**Unknown**

Margaret<sup>(1557.15)</sup>

(Masie)

From family line 11

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Gilbert<sup>(1529.11)</sup> died before his father's will was written, and one of his children probably died between the deaths of John and Margaret<sup>130</sup>. John's will refers to "*the children of Gilbert*" whereas Margaret refers to "*and only to Gilbert's daughter Masie*" Gilbert is not mentioned in either will for himself.

William<sup>(1530.11)</sup> married Margaret around 1552.

William also seems to have died in the Influenza outbreak<sup>131</sup>. After his death Grandfather John set up a trust for his two grandchildren John<sup>(1553.12)</sup> and Edward<sup>(1554.12)</sup> while Margaret, in her will, left the two boys a bullock each, to be delivered to their mother for them, possibly by Roger on his way back home to Melford with his own goods.

Family\_Line\_16:

**William**<sup>(1530.11)</sup>

&

**Margaret**

John<sup>(1553.16)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1554.16)</sup>

From family line 11

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Joan<sup>(1531.11)</sup> (Jone) was the baby girl of John and Margaret's family, She met her husband-to-be, Tobias, from the Crane family. The Cranes were well established family in Long Melford<sup>132</sup>. The

main family lived in the Manor from where they gave forty shillings to the poor people of Great Waldingfield and Chilton, three pounds to the poor people of Sudbury, forty shillings to the poor of Long

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130 Between 1550 and 1566, Bubonic plague and Influenza were sweeping through the country, (The population of England probably fell by at least 6% between 1556 and 1560)' : A General Study of the Plague in England 1539-1640 By Ian Jessiman.

131 Ibid.

132 Genealogy of the Crane family Volume 1 .

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

Family\_Line\_17:

**Joan**<sup>(1531.11)</sup>

**&**

**Tobias Crane**

Child 1

Child 2

Child 3

From family line 11

Page 94

Melford, twenty shillings to the poor of Acton, and the same amount to the poor people of Newton. Each man servant engaged in his employ at the time of his death was to receive the sum of twenty shillings, aside from their just dues. Tobias was probably not from the Manor House but one of the relations from the village. In setting up her home Joan's mother Margaret contributed two feather beds (one four poster with hangings and one without), Candlesticks,

Plates and Platers. From her well stocked Kitchen came basins, pans, the one gallon kettle and the great kettle, while from the farm was given a goat and a hog. These besides personal belongings like a red rap and a day gown. Tobias crane, her husband, received her best Muffler to keep out the cold. The number of children is uncertain but John refers to *'Tobias Crane each of his children ..... to be paid when they are 21 years old'*<sup>133</sup>

There seems to be other nuclear families contemporary to John<sup>(1498.7)</sup> living in the four mile circle at the time. John<sup>(1470.U)</sup> <sup>134</sup> might be the head relation of any of the following: Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup><sup>135</sup>, who seems to have been in business as a corn merchant in Glemsford<sup>136</sup>, then Hartest for a while before moving onto Hargrave<sup>137</sup>.

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133 John's will 1558.

134 From the Will of William Caston of Lavenham : Witness By Thomas Spring, John Lymner<sup>(1470.U)</sup> (Lymmer) in 1504 . : Will of William Caston : Buckingham & Luton Records office.

135 worked back from known transaction in 1553 and death in 1595 .

136 Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup>Lymmer buried 1558 aged 53 may be a victim of the influenza epidemic. Either he or his son Roger<sup>(1530.19)</sup> Took one Joan Strutt (wife of Thomas Strutt) to court for the debts owing in 1553. Roger, as a corn-monger, sold Joan wheat on behalf of Robert Miller in 1551 : a2a archives.

137 Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> of Lymmer later takes on a Farm at Hargrave : Bishops records



## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

- 1) *John*<sup>(1498.7) 138</sup>;
- 2) *Mary*<sup>(1502.6) 139</sup>, *who may not have been born in Stanstead, she may be Mary from Hampshire, but she lived most of her life, died and was buried in Stanstead (in 1558).*
- 3) *Alice*<sup>(1541.10) 140</sup> *was from Bedford but resided in Clare around this time.*
- 4) *Robert*<sup>(1556.28)</sup> *living in Ipswich.*

How do these fit into a family? Its difficult to say. My guess is it looks something like Family\_Line\_19 following:

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1550-8.

138 The same we have just discussed.

139 Bishop transcripts Buckingham & Luton Records office: also BMD at Suffolk records office

140 Long Sutton records : also Phillimores Hampshire Parish Records Volume 5.

Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

<p>Family_Line_ 18:</p> <p>Thomas<sup>(1479.U)</sup> farmed Limmer's land in Buckleigh Bedfordshire and had at least two children - Mary<sup>(1502.6)</sup> and Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup>. John<sup>(1470.U)</sup> his brother, (who witnessed the Will of William Caston of Lavenham in 1504), is more likely to be father of Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> and John<sup>(1498.7)</sup></p> <p>Both Thomas<sup>(1479.U)</sup> And John<sup>(1470.U)</sup> originated from Limmer (Kingsclere) in Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>See Family Lines 6 &amp; 7 page 81</p>			
<p>Family_Line_ 19:</p> <p><b>Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup></b> <b>to 1558</b></p> <p>Corn merchant, brought land in Roger Lane probably begat  </p> <p>William<sup>(1525.19)</sup> Roger<sup>(1530.19)</sup></p> <hr/> <p>Roger<sup>(1530.19)</sup> begat   John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> William<sup>(1555.28)</sup> Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup></p>	<p>Family_Line_ 20:</p> <p><b>John<sup>(1498.7)</sup></b> <b>to 1558</b></p> <p>Later married Margaret and rented land in Stanford</p> <p>see Family line 11 page 94</p>	<p>Family_Line_ 21:</p> <p><b>Mary<sup>(1502.6)</sup></b> <b>to 1558</b></p> <p>Moved from Bedfordshire to Clare around 1526</p> <p>remains a spinster and buried in Stanstead 1558</p>	<p>Family_Line_ 22:</p> <p><b>Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup></b> <b>to 1570</b></p> <p>Signed as Witness to a will Potton in 1532</p> <p>Also as witness to land transfer Potton 1552</p> <p>Will written 1570 St Gregory (Denham)</p>
<p><b>Family_outline 1: Family Theory of Hargrave</b></p>			

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

Here might be a good time to introduce three other people who might or might not be part of the noble line of Limmer.

Shotesham Manor was a large manor and was for much of its existence split into two under a ninety-nine year lease in 1397. In 1444, one Thomas Lymnor of Shotesham granted John Appleyerd an annuity out of the manor. Which annuity passed down to William Whyte in 1497 when the manor reverted to the duke of Norfolk. In 1448, Lord William Lymner occupied one seat of Shotesham Manor. The title of Lord was honorary and not because William owned the title by right of statute. Nor can I suggest they are part of the family line without further evidence, although Thomas<sup>(1504.6)</sup> married into the Whyte family, William Whyte left Alyce<sup>(1530.9)</sup> a bullock in his will and William Whyte's son William Whyte, the elder of All saints church Southill left his best robes to Alice Limmer wife of William<sup>(1555.28)</sup>. I mention them here in the hope that further evidence will be uncovered to include or exclude these two brothers<sup>141</sup>.

The third man,<sup>142</sup> Thomas Lym, a seemingly very wealthy man.<sup>143</sup> He may be part of the Lymmer line but I doubt it. Thomas Lym, Thomas Smyth de Grymeston, shoemaker, and John Wright were

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141 Source : An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk Thetford By Francis Blomefield. As we have discussed in part one, Lymnor comes from the line of illuminators. However, the absence of a standard spelling in the text meant that the document was written phonetically, making circumstantial evidence essential to interpretation.

142 I was advised it was too corny to bracket (not Harry Lym) here- : screenplay by Graham Greene.

143 People of that time did not spell , they wrote as a word sounded. Being a mixture of old English, French and Latin, I rely on the transcript which interprets it as Lym and have no reason to doubt it. But include it here in case future investigation reveals a link with Lymmers : FLT 1/168 Norfolk Records office. William's son, William Whyte, left his best robes to Alice Limmer wife of William<sup>(1555.28)</sup>

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

granted land in Hartest by: Thomas Grome alias Breccham and Matilde his wife, Gulfredus Smythe (who was rector of Sandringham), and William Trowght on Sept 10th 1455 AD.<sup>144</sup> These lands were a little over one mile to the north east of Hartest where we later meet the Family we discuss in the next Chapter.

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<sup>144</sup> Charter of Lands 10 Sep 1455 FLT 1/168 Norfolk Records office: I am personally not convinced that he is the head of this line. The reason I have for mentioning him this is that the land he brought is in the vicinity of land where William<sup>(1548.U)</sup> is later found.

## Chapter 9 ANOTHER BIG JUMP-STANFORD

### Interlude of Interest 3: Lands held by Lymmer

*These relinquished at Crondal South from Long Sutton, A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 4*

A garden & orchard and half virgate of land  
a meadow containing three roods of land,  
two closes called Parke close containing five acres of land,  
Peperstiche feald seven acres of land,  
field called Le Lytle fealde seven acres of land  
The field called Le yarde fealde seven acres of land,  
a close called Bromall's gardyn (containing) one and a half acres, with appurtenances  
a messuage, garden, lands, tenements, closes

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*These said to be in Crondal From DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS RELATING TO THE  
HUNDRED AND MANOR OF CRONDAL IN HAMPSHIRE. Part 5 (Page 156-258)*

Butter Croft,  
Manvens Meade  
Materfast Meadow  
seven crofts called Nutcrofts  
a messuage called Mablyns  
a wood called Le Sole  
2 virgates of land called Widowes Garden,  
and a meadow called Dymperk.  
Le Haylie Close,  
Le Mylle wey,  
and fields called Le Crowchfeald,  
Ley Down,  
Le Come Downe,  
and Stephens Wood. (fn. 5)

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*These lands relinquished at Lymmer (Kingsclere papers Chan. Inq. p.m. (ser. 2), cclxviii, 134).*

2 messuages, 200 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow,  
100 acres of pasture in Kingsclere; another messuage,  
40 acres of land, and 3 acres of meadow in Kingsclere;  
20 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow and 10 acres of pasture called Ford feeldes and  
Duckemeade in Kingsclere;  
6 acres of land called Maiden Meade;  
closes called Asheforde Hill and Readinges;  
parcels of land called Wakriges,  
Pastures land and Vanpidles.

## Chapter 10 BACKGROUND TO HARTEST

**H**artest, is a small village less than four miles from Hargrave, but its character tells a different story to Hargrave. I say less than four miles as the crow flies because Hargrave, a long narrow village, stretches a good mile and a half from its centre and meets Hartest stretching the other way. By road it is about seven miles. Very much wealthier than Hargrave, it had a high concentration of cottage industry, There were farms within its boundaries but these simply supplied the wool and hide for the clothes and shoe industries.

The village had a population of around two-hundred in 1500 AD, fifty-six of whom were described as able-bodied men and ten are described as poor. Two of the poor labourers were drafted for the war in France.<sup>145</sup> There were said to be nine separate trades in the village including shoemaker, baker, miller, clothier and brewer. The village rector, being William Lechman, also served Glemsford and Hargrave churches<sup>146</sup> William took over from Thomas Fletcher C1460.

By 1550 we can see a Lymmer family established under the umbrella of Hartest. Most likely, their farm was about one mile north east of Hartest proper, bordering the land the Bird family with whom later generations of the family were to have a dispute.<sup>147</sup>

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145 Muster Rolls accounts for 1522:

146 William Lechman, whose will was concluded in 1488/9.

147 The dispute was “William Lymmer and Elizabeth v John Bird over the personal estate of Francis Ladyman, deceased, of Little Welnetham. The plot thickens when we realise that Elizabeth was the daughter of Frances Ladyeman and Chorias [Cornelius] Limmer was married to Margaret Bird, John Bird's daughter. John Bird and Frances Ladyman were good friends and

## Chapter 10 BACKGROUND TO HARTEST

Family_Line_23:
<b>William<sup>(1548.U)</sup></b>
<b>&amp; Rose Ingold</b>
Thomas <sup>(1571.23)</sup>
Ann <sup>(1573.23)</sup>
Marabele <sup>(1575.23)</sup>
Marjory <sup>(1581.23)</sup>
William <sup>(1584.23)</sup>
Frances <sup>(1586.23)</sup>
Rose <sup>(1588.23)</sup>
Elizabeth <sup>(1592.23)</sup>
Sarah <sup>(1594.23)</sup>

William was born in 1548 at Hartest. He met Rose Ingold from the next village, Brockley, and they married in 1569 when William was around twenty-one years of age. The couple hardly moved out of Hartest where their busy household of nine children grew up on the farm. William died on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1629 at the good age of eighty-one. Rose followed just two years later on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1631.

- 1) *Thomas, born 10th June 1571 in Hartest almost reached his first birthday but died 4th June 1572*
- 2) *Ann was baptised 5th April 1573 in Hartest 1575.<sup>148</sup>*
- 3) *Marabele(1575.23) was also baptised in Hartest and later married Thomas Pauet in 1602 at Hartest.*
- 4) *Marjory(1581.23) was born 16th April 1581 at Hartest.*
- 5) *Son William(1584.23) born 13th September 1584, married Alice Stewart on the 25th May 1609 in Chevington. They had two sons and a daughter before Alice died leaving*

*William a widower.*

- 6) *Frances(1586.23) on 21st August 1586 at Hartest*
- 7) *Rose(1588.23) 19th January 1588 at Hartest also died unmarried aged 23 on 23rd September 1601 Hartest.*
- 8) *Elizabeth(1592.23) was born 14th May 1592 at Hartest and died aged 5 on 8th December 1596 at Hartest.*
- 9) *Sarah(1594.23) was born 12th January 1594 Hartest.*

William<sup>(1584.23)</sup>, son of William<sup>(1548.U)</sup>, first married Alice Stewart 25<sup>th</sup> May 1609 at Chevington. They had three children :

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neighbours. Sources : LIMMER Chorias 1649. ; Suffolk Green Book & Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings C 10/467/184.

148 All this family's records are courtesy of Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010) ; Suffolk Records Office.

## Chapter 10 BACKGROUND TO HARTEST

Family\_Line\_24:  
**William**<sup>(1584,23)</sup>

**&**  
**Alice Stewart**

Richard<sup>(1610,24)</sup>  
William<sup>(1613,24)</sup>  
Alice<sup>(1624,24)</sup>

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**Ann Frost**

Henry Frost  
George Frost  
Winifred Frost

*From family line 23  
Page 107*

- 1) *William's eldest, Richard<sup>(1610,24)</sup> was born 6th May 1610 at Alice's parents home in Chevington. He met Margery in Hartest where they married in the Autumn of 1642. They had one son Richard<sup>(1644,26)</sup>, who was born 4<sup>th</sup> February 1644 in Hartest. and died just one year later on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1645. Richard<sup>(1610,24)</sup> became ill in the autumn of 1673 and on 4<sup>th</sup> November wrote his will. He survived a few months more until he died 15<sup>th</sup> February 1674 aged sixty-four.*
- 2) *William born 24th Aug 1613 in Hartest.*
- 3) *Alice born 7th September 1624 also in Hartest. Alice later married John Earnsby in Bury-Saint-Edmunds on September the 7th 1624.*

When Alice (nee Stewart) died in 1628, William met Ann Frost who was also widowed. They soon found good company in each other, so widow Ann and widower William married on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1630. Anne already had two sons and a daughter, (Henry, George and Winifred Frost), to match William's family.



## Chapter 10 BACKGROUND TO HARTEST

Family\_Line\_25:

**William**<sup>(1613.24)</sup>

**&**

**Unknown**

William<sup>(1633.25)</sup>

John<sup>(1636.25)</sup>

Samuel<sup>(1639.25)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1642.25)</sup>

*From family line 24*

*Page 108*

William<sup>(1613.24)</sup> married around 1632 AD. Although his wife is not named she is presumed to be Marie Ladyman daughter of Francis and Marie Ladyman born C 1615.

They had four children: William<sup>(1633.25)</sup>, John<sup>(1636.25)</sup>, Samuel<sup>(1639.25)</sup>, Elizabeth<sup>(1642.25)</sup>. In 1658, daughter Elizabeth<sup>(1642.25)</sup> was still at home on her father's farm for her sixteenth birthday. That year brought both good news and bad. Elizabeth received a gift from Frances Ladyman.<sup>149</sup>

But that same year brought a boundary dispute with neighbour John Byrd to a head. The issue went to court.

Family\_Line\_26:

**Richard**<sup>(1610.24)</sup>

**&**

**Margery**

Richard<sup>(1644.26)</sup>

*Possibly also*

Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup>

*From family line 24*

*Page 108*

In 1640, William<sup>(1613.24)</sup> is recorded as paying two shillings and six pence in ship tax<sup>150</sup>. The king require the tax of land owners for defence of the island. That William (with his land at Hargrave and Hartest), and cousins John, (farming at Groton), and Thomas, (farming at Barrow), all paid the tax shows the substantial size of their farms and the spread of the family in Suffolk. We know little about William's<sup>(1613.24)</sup> Children, John<sup>(1636.25)</sup> and Samuel<sup>(1639.25)</sup>.

William<sup>(1633.25)</sup> born 1st Jan 1633 in Hartest was twenty-five when he married. He lived in Hartest all his life with his wife Prudence, (whom he married around 1657), and died 22nd July 1696. But life was not

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149 'Will of Frances Ladyman: 1658.

150 Ship Records Barrow paid 2/6d (Hartest) 1640 AD.

## Chapter 10 BACKGROUND TO HARTEST

Family\_Line\_ 27:

**William**<sup>(1633.25)</sup>

**&**

**Prudence**

John<sup>(1659.27)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1660.27)</sup>

Alice<sup>(1663.27)</sup>

William<sup>(1665.27)</sup>

Thomas<sup>(1668.27)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1669.27)</sup>

Samuel<sup>(1670.27)</sup>

Sarah<sup>(1672.27)</sup>

Anna<sup>(1673.27)</sup>

Jeremiah<sup>(1675.27)</sup>

From family line 25

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dull for he had five sons and five daughters.

- 1) *The eldest John*<sup>(1659.27)</sup> *died 10 Oct 1736 in Hartest after seventy-seven years of the good life.*
- 2) *William's children left few clues around for us to find, Mary*<sup>(1660.27)</sup> *born 20<sup>th</sup> January 1660 Hartest married Ben King.*
- 3) *Alice*<sup>(1663.27)</sup> *born 1<sup>st</sup> January 1663 Hartest married Samuel Digarson.*
- 4) *William*<sup>(1665.27)</sup> *born 9<sup>th</sup> December 1665 Hartest married Susan Shelley, and died 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1720 Hartest.*
- 5) *Thomas*<sup>(1668.27)</sup> *born 28<sup>th</sup> October 1668 Hartest*
- 6) *Elizabeth*<sup>(1669.27)</sup> *born 28<sup>th</sup> December 1669 in Hartest.*
- 7) *Samuel*<sup>(1670.27)</sup> *23<sup>rd</sup> January 1670 Hartest died aged forty-nine on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1729 in Hartest.*
- 8) *Sarah*<sup>(1672.27)</sup> *born 29<sup>th</sup> May 1672 lived her life in Hartest where she died on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1672.*
- 9) *Anna*<sup>(1673.27)</sup> *born 12<sup>th</sup> October 1673 Hartest and*
- 10) *Jeremiah*<sup>(1675.27)</sup> *born 19<sup>th</sup> October 1675 Hartest.*<sup>151</sup>

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151 All this family information is by courtesy of Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010 ); Suffolk Records Office.

## Chapter 10 BACKGROUND TO HARTEST

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

**H**argrave shows little resemblance to its counterpart Hartest, few landmarks remain. The church of course dates back to Norman times, Rogers lane was a simple track cart then. The tenements and Large house have gone.

In pre-Reformation days, Hargrave was a small village 6 miles south-west of Bury-Saint-Edmunds. In 1550 AD, it centred on a village common, boasting a Manor house, an inn - (at which the main stagecoach routes from Colchester to Cambridge and London to Norwich would cross), a church, a school and the remains of a wooden Saxon castle.

Hargrave means Hares grove, (though it may have meant to be a deviant of Grey grove). William the Conqueror gave the village to the monks and monastery of Bury-Saint-Edmunds in days when it was known as Haragrave. Pope Eugenius IV in turn gave it to Abbot Anselm in 1147. One quotation of the day from an unknown source of the day described Hargrave as :

*'Hargrave is rather a depressing village and  
apt to bring to one's mind the well known lines:--  
"out of the world's way,  
out of the light, forgotten of men altogether"'* <sup>152</sup>

Perhaps that was to Limmer's advantage in an era of Civil war. It was a good place to *'keep one's head down'*.

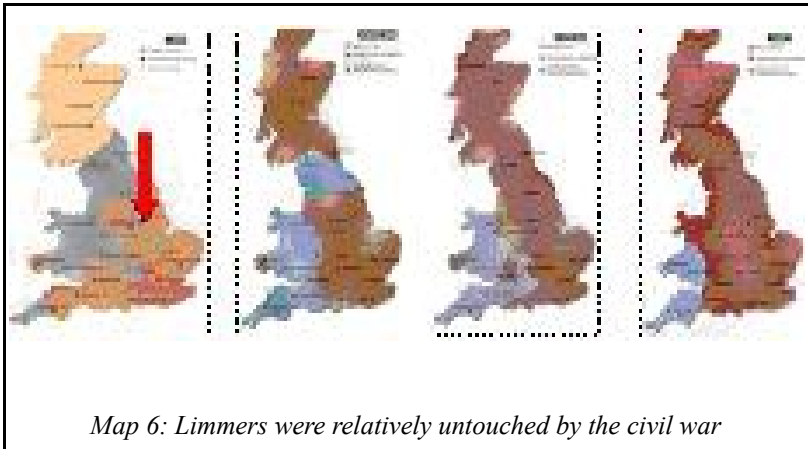
Hargravians, who had been strongly influenced by the Parliamentarians, were also able to persuade royalists not to

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152 The 'pocket histories of Suffolk Parishes'.

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

interfere. After all the country needed its grain whoever won the civil war. Limmers seem to have remained undisturbed in this sleepy village while battles between Cavaliers and Roundheads raged up and down the land. Somehow, it did not come near them as we can see from the strip map The arrow points to where Limmers lived and the brown shows the progression of the war.



Records show<sup>153</sup> at this time, besides the Abbots land, there were four carucates<sup>154</sup> of land divided among six villains, who had four slaves, two plough-teams, two beasts, five hogs, and common access to four acres of meadow and woodland for sixteen hogs.<sup>155</sup>

Unfortunately, Family records are sparse<sup>156</sup> at the beginning of the

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<sup>153</sup> The manors of Suffolk Vol. 7 Taylor, Garnett & Evens. 1911.

<sup>154</sup> carucates, A carucate was an area of plough land, it varied between 60 and 180 acres (depending on quality of land, e.g. soil), which could be ploughed by an eight oxen plough team in one year, (also known as a Hide).

<sup>155</sup> Dom ii 435.

<sup>156</sup> There were no records kept by Hargrave church during the period of 1649 to

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

Hargrave era so we start our adventure with detective work. By working backwards from the known to the unknown, as we do, it becomes clearer that there were at least two nuclear families of Lymmers farming in Hargrave before devolution.

We begin our story of Hargrave with the Abbot who became Chief Lord of the Manor in 1286. The Manor lands were in a boundary of 140 acres. Four houses, in four plots of land of around one hundred and fifty acres stood on the southern side. Two of these being subdivided and later a block of tenements were added on the opposite side of the main road to the inn and stagecoach stop. To the north east was common land and woods<sup>157</sup> on which stood the village water supply – the well.

To the north-west of the village stood the farm and house most likely to have housed the first Lymmer family. This farm's northern border ran alongside the church estate, which, at the time, was run by the abbot and his monks. Roger Lane ran from the main Ousden road (known then as Howesdon), to a Mill house built sometime after 1520 AD. What we cannot tell is if Roger was born in Hargrave or even if he owned this land, Roger may have had land in Hartest, but that is also unclear. I say that this is the likely home of Lymmer because we know that there are at least two brothers living in Hargrave, John, perhaps born a little later than 1545. We will call him John<sup>(1545.28)</sup>. He seems to have remained in this house and farmed the land, while William, born some time before 1555, William<sup>(1555.28)</sup>, who later worked the farm with the limekiln and the large house to the south-east side of village, which was a piece of land originally given to Robert Payne by King Richard, in 1302 AD. The limekiln, which may have been

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1660.

157 Harers wood and the common were close to the tenements.

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

there then, was handy for William as it was the fad of the day for many farmers to break up heavy clay with lime as they ploughed, quite a lucrative aside for a corn-monger - selling lime alongside seed.

I say it was a large house, it was not as large as others in the village, judging by the hearth tax levied on the house. After William<sup>(1584.23)</sup> inherited the house from his father he paid 9d on this tax whereas the manor house paid £1: 3s: 0d. The average was about 3d.<sup>158</sup>. Just opposite the junction leading to the house was the inn and stables at which stagecoaches stopped.

When Henry VIII argued with the Pope, Henry seized the abbey from the Roman Catholic Church and put it under the authority of Sir Thomas Kitson<sup>159</sup>. He passed the act of disillusionment in 1538/9 AD, fearing that the Pope should still receive monies from the church.

At the time of disillusionment<sup>160</sup>, Sir Thomas Kitson, Corn merchant and High Sheriff of London<sup>161</sup>, owned and successfully ran a number of estates by devolving them among sub tenants. Receiving the Manor and all its lands from the king, he honoured the legal and

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158 William<sup>(1530.11)</sup> (mentioned as witness to will: Potton 1552).

159 Details of Grant : Henry VIII DKR 10.

160 Richard Kitson, Thomas' father, died that same year.

161 Sir Thomas Kytson (1485–1540) was a wealthy English grain merchant, sheriff of London, and builder of Hengrave Hall. Kitson and Archbishop Lee instigated a band of sergeant at arms to ‘Change the minds and gain approval’ for the annulment of Henry’s marriage to Katherine. It was this incident more than the acceptance of Henry as Head of the church that caused the confiscation of land from Monks including the monks of Hargrave.

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

perpetual agreements<sup>162</sup> already held with Lymmers<sup>163</sup>, while devolving the remaining hundred-and-forty acres retained by the abbey, into short term contracts with six Villeins<sup>164</sup>. At least one and probably two of those Villeins were Lymmers. Several generations later, we find Limmers still working land. We can deduce this mainly from the wills of Limmer families living in Hargrave at this period<sup>165</sup>. By the second and third generation of these families, there are about seven nuclear families of Limmer farming in the area. From one source we can find the following potted history:

Besides Yeoman and Villeins, there are also recorded one tailor, one wheelwright, one Cordwainer<sup>166</sup>, labourers, an innkeeper<sup>167</sup> and five domestic servants, around fourteen dwellings housed the residents in 1539 but *this rose to twenty-one* by early sixteen hundred. There is some evidence for assuming the monks not only used the land for agriculture but also introduced building works to repair the Abbey. Horringer seems to have supplied the lime, Chevington the tiles and

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162 Actually it was more likely to be a 199 year lease than an 'heirs forever' agreement as the land was reformed and reunited in about 1730 AD when Limmers main centre moves to Tuddenham.

163 Henry VIII DKR 10 The fact that the farm was divide up by William Thomas and John suggests one common ancestor.

164 A Villein is a yeoman or other person who runs a portion of the estate having first paid a year's rent and thereafter contracted for a further period at an agreed rent.

165 A number of the wills refer to records as held in the manor, which suggests they had contracted as Villeins possibly as early as 1508/9 and still held at least part of their land under the manorial court system with Sir Kytson in 1539. The Abbey held the manor and most of its land before this; the monks worked part of the land themselves until Henry VIII confiscated it. Sir Kytson was High Sheriff of London and under henry's instructions he and Archbishop Lee took a sergeant of arms to persuade the Monks to support his marriage annulment .

166 [Limmer family].

167 [Possible Limmer family] .



## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

Hargrave the bricks and pipes<sup>168</sup>.

The Chimney and Fire mentioned in William<sup>(1555.28)</sup> 169 Lymmer's Will may well have been one of the kilns where the firing of clay took place.<sup>170</sup> Devolution period ends C1700 AD, when the land was consolidated once again, under the Earl of Bristol.

At a time when industry also increases in Hargrave, (brick makers, bricklayers, blacksmiths), Lymmers seem to move out. Possibly seeing the end of their contract looming, they invested in lands around Barrow, Groton Hepworth and many other places. The original small farm at the south of Hargrave seems to stay in Lymmer hands for a few more years after the reconstitution of the Hargrave estate fuelling the understanding that Lymmers had had a foothold in Hargrave before devolution.

Hargrave era spanned three Monarchs, Henry VII, Henry VIII and Elizabeth times. Britain is firmly under one monarch and a parliament is established in Westminster. Following the Reformation in England, Queen Mary tried to return the church to Rome but

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168 information from 'a potted history of Suffolk Villages'.

169 We will come to William<sup>(1555.28)</sup> a little later.

170 An archaeological report in Bury records office stating '*...the lime industry well known to have been established in Hargrave*', was conceded to be an error when I challenged it. The report should have read Horenger. However, the kiln would have originated as one of many lime kilns used to produce lime to sweeten the clay ground of the farm- especially as Roger Lymmer was a corn farmer. Surplus lime would have been sold to neighbouring farmers. (see Interlude of interest – lime : *ibid*). It would have been turned into a brick kiln to take advantage of the fast rising brick industry and falling corn returns C1550 AD. See: Pankhurst C J: 'Brick kilns in Suffolk'; (see also Hargrave tithe map & apportionment- A brick yard (plot 206) adjoining 'Brick kiln field' (plot 207) on Hargrave tithe.

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

parliament had not allowed it. Elizabeth I had Mary executed and ruled church and state as an iron maiden, then James I of England (James VI of Scotland), deviously promised the Puritans a presbytery system, (similar to the Scottish church council), in return for their support. Instead, having gained what he wanted, he tightened his grip on the church declaring his desire to have absolute control over it. Confronting puritans with the choice '*Conform, get out of England or worse*', he began the transportation of 3000 puritans from Suffolk to New England.

How did this affect the Limmers of Hargrave? Were they Royalists, Puritans or abstainers? They certainly kept the company of Puritans and expressed the language of Puritans in their wills. A founder Puritan - Richard Sibbes was Elizabeth Sibbes' great great-uncle; (Elizabeth married John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> Limmer)<sup>171</sup>.

Hargrave may have been a boring place before, but it was growing now, from five households during the fourteen-fifties, rising to twenty-one houses in fifteen-hundred, and then to thirty-two houses by sixteen-seventy-four. Things were now livening up.

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171 Paul Sibbes wheelwright, (also lay reader or deacon in Thurston church) married Joanna (Johan). He died pre 1608 Children of Paul Sibbes and Joanna ; Richard Tostock born 1577 - MA 1602 -Converted 1603 - died 1635 unmarried ; John who gained a BA at Cambridge in 1635 John married and had two children:  
Richard who gained a BA 1664 and an MA in 1668 ; Robert who gained a BA 1675 This Robert had a son Thomas – the father of Elizabeth.  
Thomas Sibbes of Tostock died 18 Jan 1690, having married Elizabeth.  
Elizabeth died 9 Aug 1706 Children of Thomas and Elizabeth: Elizabeth Sibbes born 1677, Married John Limmer 1700; Hannah Sibbes bap 6 Jan 1679; Sarah Sibbes married John Nunn (Brother of Frances Nunn) 12 April 1697 died Thurston 28 Feb 1719; Francis bap 6 June 1683 died 18 Feb 1725; Richard Sibbes bap 1 May 1688 BA 1716.

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

Ann<sup>(1573.23)</sup> Lymmer, would have watched the first nonconformist church grow in the village; meeting at first in '*an unknown place*' under three ruling 'Elders' with '*baptisms being conducted Sunday by Sunday*'<sup>172</sup>. Such an event would have made the village a lively place for a while, as organised bands of opposition were well known to follow these new denominations around England and harass them.

Thomas<sup>(1582.36)</sup> and Susan Lymmer and brother William Lymmer, could hardly have avoided the scandal of Rector Richard Hard who, as a result of an enquiry into 'Scandalous Ministers'<sup>173</sup> was '*escorted from the village by troopers*'.

John<sup>(1566.U)</sup> was the teenage lad who caused a little scandal one dark Wednesday evening- being the fourth in lent. He took himself along the road to the next village and entering the close of Oliver Sparrow of Howesdon and 'borrowed' a gelding from the stables. Finding himself in front of chief justice sir Robert Catlin he was pardoned on the benevolence of Oliver Sparrowe. It seems rather a sledge hammer to break a nut as the prosecuting council was sir Christopher Heydon, had a reputation for his tough stand against crime at the time. The judge also had transported several for misdemeanour's like this.<sup>174</sup>

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172 Probably started by John Smyth or William Byrd who set up a number of Baptist churches in Suffolk. These, also being signatories to Lymmer wills.

173 The Scandalous Ministers Bill was passed by the House of Lords by 1630, the rector of Hargrave was brought before the local commission, resulting in him being driven out of the village by troopers: Suffolk Parish History : Wendy Goult.

174 The book is actually called Calendar of the Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office : Elizabeth I Volume V 1569-1572.

The entry on page 67 says :

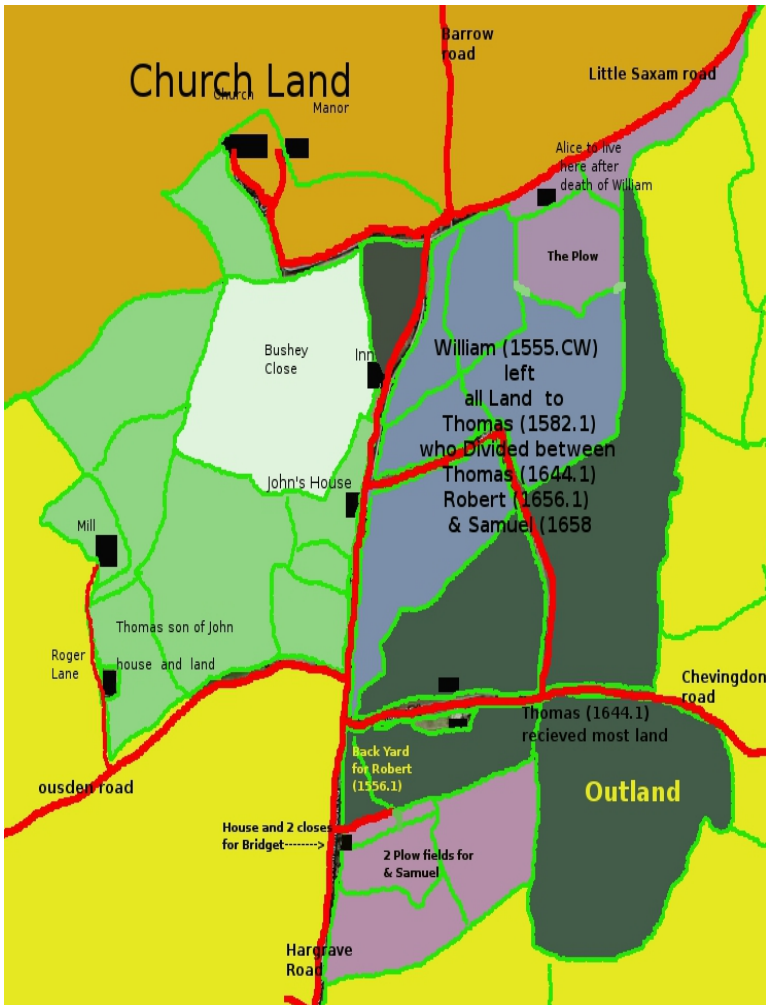
508 30 June 1570. Pardon for John Lymmer late of Hargrave, co.

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE

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Suffolk, 'labourer', indicted at the gaol delivery of Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds, co. Suffolk, held at Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday in the fourth week of Lent, 12 Elizabeth, before Robert Catlin, knight, chief justice of the Queen's Bench, and Robert Bedingfield, justices of assize and gaol delivery, for that he broke and entered the close of Oliver Sparrowe at Howesdon, co. Suffolk, on 17 Oct., 11 Eliz., and stole a gelding belonging to him. At the suit of Christopher Heydon, knight. By Q {m 43] (*membrane 43 of the document*)

## Chapter 11 HARGRAVE



*Map 7: Hargrave land distribution 1600 AD*

Hargrave, Suffolk IP29 UK

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William Lymer of Hargrave May 13 1614

Ales my wife one yearly annuity of seven Pounds, one quarter of my estate for her life from the field called the plow? Including the hall of residence up as far as the chimney?

Ales the wife of Nicholas Nobell ? being my eldest daughter the sum of ten pounds

And to Marie the wife of Samuel Palmer being my second daughter the sum of ten pounds in two parts Five pounds within one year of my death and the remainder within three years of my death

Each of my four grandchildren - twenty shillings a year after they reach twenty-one years of age

Ales my wife to receive half of all my household stuff

The other half to go to unto Thomas my son together with the remaining three-quarters of the farm with all its cattle houses and farm equipment

Thomas to be sole executor --

witnessed: *Nicholas Trott,*

*Clement Lyrke*

*Thomas Austine*

*Interlude of Interest 4: Economic Change*

Until the plague arrived, the top seventy families in England held a close sway over the land as Lords of the realm. Under these families, the next seventy ruled as barons and earls.

The rest of the people worked between one and thirty acres of land to support their family on payment of rent.

After the plague this changed. Many families were wiped out while for many others there were not enough active members in the family to work the land.

Abolition of serfdom at the end of the poll tax riots had enabled limited social mobility and paved the way for a new breed of yeomen to emerge. These yeomen, who learned the trade of manager on the estates of lords, barons and earls, soon grew restless themselves and the hollow left by the plague provided opportunity for the new gentry class to emerge.

Devolution under Henry VIII divided the land even further and allowed many of these Yeomen to own land on one-hundred-and-ninety-nine year leases

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

Family\_Line\_ 28:

**Roger**<sup>(1530.19)</sup>

**&**

**Unknown**

|

John<sup>(1545.28)</sup>

William<sup>(1555.28)</sup>

Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup>

*From family line 19  
page 102*

**R**oger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> Lymmer and his son Roger<sup>(1530.19)</sup> were corn merchants<sup>175</sup>. They lived at the end of Roger lane in Hargrave. In 1553 they sold Joan and Thomas Strutt some corn on behalf of Robert Miller. When they failed to pay Roger took them to court for the debts owing. Thomas Strutt was a Baker, miller and local farmer of Hartest<sup>176</sup>. He was far from poor so it is hard to say why he failed to pay. When he made his will he was living in Long Melford which is adjacent to Glemsford. He died December 10<sup>th</sup> 1548 but left no settlement in his will to pay debts. Having not settled, by 1553 the case came before the court. Thomas, a businessman, left substantial

land to his son John<sup>177</sup> who immediately had to pay six shillings and eight pence outstanding tax plus £2.00 on a £40.00 subsidy he had

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175 See Family\_outline 1 Family Theory of Hargrave page 102

176 The street leading to his farm was known as Strutt Tyr and is still land marked today on the map.

177 John Strutt was the son of Thomas Strutt and Johane (Joan). John Strutt, who had three older sisters, married 1st Catherine (?) in 1532 at Glemsford, co Suffolk, England.<sup>2,3</sup> John Strutt was buried on 22 April 1591 at Glemsford, co Suffolk, England.<sup>4,5</sup> He resided in 1568 at Glemsford, co Suffolk, England. He left a will on 19 April 1591 at Glemsford, co Suffolk, England, which was proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Sudbury 12 May 1591. The will mentions wife Juliane; daughter Anne Strutte (who is under age 18); nephew (grandson) Thomas Belgrave, late daughter Johane Belgrave, sister Ursula Brewer, brother (in law?) George Scott, each child of Eustace Strutte (who we may presume was deceased). Source : Harold F Porter: "The Strutt Ancestry of Thomasine Frost".



## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

received. He and his wife had a lease on several other properties including land in Syldenfield, Longland, Weston Mill and Foxearth, Essex.

The story of Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> is sketchy. It looks as though Roger spent some time in London, at least it seems as though Roger associated with the corn exchange in London<sup>178</sup> Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> of Lymmer brought land in Hargrave in the first quarter of the fifteen-hundreds, which has a corn store and windmill on it.<sup>179</sup> Roger's Lane was probably named after him. Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> was buried in 1558<sup>180</sup> His son Roger<sup>(1530.19)</sup> carried on the licence to trade in corn on the farm. By now he had married a wife and fathered at least two sons, John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> and William<sup>(1555.28)</sup>. Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup> may be their third son. We find Robert, also making good as a merchant, in Ipswich. He has an export licence for France.<sup>181</sup> Did Roger have some influence in that I wonder?

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178 The corn exchange as we know it was named in Victorian times. but from C1300, while the west side of the country dealt mainly in livestock, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex being England's corn belt, raised a breed of corn-monger who brought, transported and sold grain. Soon the trade found agreement with corn-grinders and were able to deal in flour also. They also imported and exported grain. John de Lymme was a fellow of corn-mongers in 1310. Membership of the corn-mongers was by introduction from a fellow member. By 1686, the exchange had become a closed 'gentleman's syndicate'. That the debt trial of the strutts took place in London suggests the case was brought under the structure of this co-operative organisation - which had the ear of the king because of the corn tax.

179 Suffolk records office SRO/L/19/49 : See also the 'Interlude of Interest Lands of Lymmer' for lands that had been associated with the Manor of Lymmer pre 1550. these were wide spread but said to be under the hundred of Crondal.

180 Ibid.

181 We have covered Robert<sup>(1530.19)</sup> in Chapter 8. export licences were granted by the crown.

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

We have no concrete proof but Mary<sup>(1502.6)</sup> may be aunt to the three boys. Mary can be found living in Stanford where she died in 1558 as a spinster.<sup>182</sup>

Roger's land would have been left in its entirety to John<sup>(1545.28)</sup>. But good opportunity came for William<sup>(1555.28)</sup>. At the dissolution of monasteries in 1537 when Hargrave land was put under the care of Sir Thomas Kitson<sup>183</sup>, Roger seized the opportunity to apply for a copyhold<sup>184</sup> on land adjacent to his, which we later see William<sup>(1555.28)</sup> farming. William willed the farm to his son Thomas<sup>(1572..29)</sup> <sup>185</sup>.

After Henry had declared himself head of the church, parish records began to be kept, partly for Henry VIII's benefit as he took a keen interest in the vast amounts of land now under his control, but also because it gave him a better idea of tax revenues. The Lymmers had by now built up a good deal of wealth in and around Hargrave.

By 1538 AD parishes were obliged to keep a register of births deaths and marriages by decree of Henry VIII. By 1539 we can find

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182 I say possible because if "Roger of Lymmer" is Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> and moved from Lymmer and Mary<sup>(1502.6)</sup> moved up from Buckinghamshire around the same time then it is reasonable to assume she is his sister and aunt to John, William, and Robert .

183 Sir Thomas Kytson(1485–1540) was a wealthy English grain merchant, sheriff of London, and builder of Hengrave Hall. Kitson and Archbishop Lee instigated a band of sergeant at arms to 'Change the minds and gain approval' for the annulment of Henry's marriage to Katherine. It was this incident more than the acceptance of Henry as Head of the church that caused the confiscation of land from Monks including the monks of Hargrave.

184 Whereas the original land was for owner and "heirs forever", the new copyhold tenancies were probably 99 year leases as by early 1700's land was once again reunited under the estate of the Kitson family.

185 See map 7 Hargrave land distribution 1600 AD page 121.

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

parish records for Long Sutton containing Limmers. But with the growing disappointment of King Henry in Suffolk there was little enthusiasm to carry out his wishes. In 1547 AD the injunction was enforced and we find our first records from Hargrave.

Family\_Line\_ 29:

**John**<sup>(1545.28)</sup>

**& Margaret**

|

Thomas<sup>(1572.29)</sup>

Roger<sup>(1574.29)</sup>

Anne<sup>(1575.29)</sup>

John<sup>(1576.29)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1581.29)</sup>

William<sup>(1583.29)</sup>

Samuel<sup>(1587.29)</sup>

*From Family 28 Line  
124*

Working through in order of Marriage dates, it appears John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> and Margaret married first in this generation – at least for whom we can find church records<sup>186</sup>. The precise order of the children is unclear, as are their dates of birth. John's Will tells clearly there were seven children so the dates given are assessed from the marriage date and other evidences. John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> married Margaret in 1571 when he was 26 years old.

John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> and Margaret produced their first son. But was that Roger or was it Thomas? Either way there is a break with an age old tradition. If Thomas was the eldest then the tradition of naming the first-born after the grandfather was broken. If Roger was the eldest then the farm was

not passed down to the eldest. As the will of the grandfather often declared which grandson would inherit my guess is it was Thomas<sup>(1572.29)</sup> who was eldest, as he took over the running of two-thirds of the farm before his father John died leaving the remainder to him in his will<sup>187</sup>

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186 Not to be confused with John & Margaret from Stanford.

187 The debate is open for you to decide : other factors to consider Thomas married before Roger. Roger appears to have had a substantial investment from his father to set him up in career outside farming as he only received ten-shillings in the will. Also, at this time the reformers were rebelling against any tradition because traditions, such as naming children after Grandparents, were thought to be superstitious and binding on people .

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

John and Margaret are clearly wealthy people having a large house; <sup>188</sup>each room seems to have a fire in their house – a sign of affluence in itself.<sup>189</sup> Margaret, who also left a will, suggests she brought some money to the household from her family, both in the form of a dowry and a personal allowance. The wealth of this family is also clear from the will of John<sup>(1545.28)</sup>. ten shillings for Samuel sounds a small amount but in 1618 it amounted to fifteen weeks wages for a skilled joiner in Cambridge. Six Pounds was about three and a half years wages and thirty pounds was about seventeen and a half years wages<sup>190</sup>.

Reading Margaret's will, the kitchen and bible were focal points of this household, Matriarch Margaret saw to that. Margaret left William her Bible, clearly Margaret had a good education and saw to it the children were well educated also. William would have had no problem reading from the Latin Vulgate version. However, with the Puritan associations of the family<sup>191</sup>, the Bible left to William<sup>(1583.29)</sup> would more likely be the latest Version in English.

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188 John probably lived in the house in Roger lane until he married when they probably moved to Bushey Close until his father died. It was when Thomas started his family that John and Margaret semi-retired back to Bushey Close leaving Thomas to run the bigger part of land.

189 As the first-born, John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> inherited the whole of his father's property. This was not uncommon as the title deed were often drawn up in a way that, while the land might be divided among the family during a lifetime it would have to return to the whole on death.

190 The will reproduced below is witnessed by John Smythe whose son was a well known puritan and William whose surname is Quarles a Solicitor from Bury-Saint-Edmunds. See Interlude\_of\_Interest 5 on page 136

191 A majority of the witnesses signing the will of Margaret's will can be shown to have Puritan connections Richard Fletcher, Vicar of Cranbrook - *'who had associated with him two men so puritanical in view that all were ordered to stop preaching their doctrine'* - moved to Suffolk. 'Son of Richard Fletcher - Cambridge graduate' – 'Became Bishop of London and Religious advisor to Queen'.

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

Written C1611 by the command of James I, it became known as the Authorised Bible. Church dignitaries were reluctant for the common man to own Vulgate Bibles; in their view the common man "could not be expected to rightly interpret the word of *God*". But the education William<sup>(1583.29)</sup> had received meant Latin would have presented him no problem.

The estate was to be kept as one unit in common with aristocracy practice. John handed it on to the eldest son Thomas<sup>(1572.29)</sup>, who was by then forty-seven years old. John and Margaret had moved to the smaller house in Bushey close together with ten acres of land, leaving Thomas to farm the remaining thirty-five acres. The farm was reunited under Thomas when John died leaving just a house and paddock for Margaret until her death.

It was always a dilemma for the head of an estate when it came for time to make a will. If he divided his estate between all the siblings it would not be long before the estate was divided so small that all the family struggled for income. Certainly community prestige would be quickly diminished this way. Greater wealth and prosperity clearly came from the harder headed, who gave custody of the whole estate to one descendant with a share of profits in the form of a trust being shared among the rest of the family. The disadvantage of this system would have been the jealousy and rivalry it may have produced among the siblings.

We ought to ask where were the children educated? Clearly they were and to high standard. Did they have a governess? John & Margaret would have been the employers of some domestic servants recorded to be in Hargrave but would that have included a governess?<sup>192</sup>

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192 Survey of Suffolk Parish History :Wendy Goult – although the records show 5

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE



*Figure 9: A typical upper class Kitchen of the period*

Hargrave has a church school. Such village schools would be unlikely to educate the standard this family seems to have attained. Edward VI established a grammar school in Bury-Saint-Edmunds a number of years before this. No Limmers appear on the role until the 1800's. This does not mean they did not attend this school it is estimated that more than ten thousand boys passed through the gates from its opening but only two and a half thousand are documented. One other Grammar school existed near to Hargrave. Mildenhall Grammar School took fewer pupils than Bury and records are sparse. Fewer boys gradated to Cambridge<sup>193</sup> through

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servants to be in Hargrave by 1831. The ratio of 80 Adults (besides children), living in 21 houses in 1603 – (a ratio of nearly 4:1), suggests a number of other workers like domestic servants or governesses present in Hargrave.

193 Cambridge entrance records show no Limmers as having entered Cambridge

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

Mildenhall, than did through Edward VI – School in Bury.

Hargrave school itself became a grammar school later, but not until mid 1600's, Most of William's children would have missed out on this local school but his grandchildren would no doubt have started their education here.

Family\_Line\_ 30:

**Thomas**<sup>(1572.29)</sup>

**&**

**Joan**

Thomas<sup>(1599.30)</sup>

From family line 29

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Thomas<sup>(1572.29)</sup> married Joan around 1598 and the first thing they did was break with tradition; the first-born was named after father not grandfather. Thomas<sup>(1599.30)</sup> was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 1599 and duly entered into the Bishops records<sup>194</sup>. When John died shortly after his sixty-fourth birthday, Roger<sup>(1574.29)</sup>, now forty-three years old, inherited the '*residue of household stuff and ten shillings*' from his fathers' will. Roger<sup>(1574.29)</sup> married Agnes in 1599 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

His first child was Anne<sup>(1599.31)</sup> born 20<sup>th</sup> march 1602<sup>195</sup>. We don't know much more about Anne. She was left three items in Grandmother Margaret's will saying : '*I give unto Anne Lymer daughter of Roger Lymer my best holland apron, a pewter platter and a sheet*'.<sup>196</sup> Anne was to reached her twentieth birthday two months

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universities between 1500 and 1900. However , many of the names associated with Limmers in this period are mentioned and the Limmers are clearly influenced by the new theological debate erupting in the college during this time. Entrants to Cambridge had to have local clergy documentation to show a regular church going pedigree. This may be a factor when considering the lack of Limmers at University.

194 Maureen Darby – researched (1970-2010 ); Suffolk records office Bishops transcripts

195 Hargrave Bishop's Transcripts 1574-1707 and parish registers 1707-1720

196 Margaret's will 1621

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

Family\_Line\_ 31:

**Roger**<sup>(1574.29)</sup>

**& Agnes**

Anne<sup>(1599.31)</sup>

From family line 29  
Page 127

later. The couple had other children but records were badly kept during this period making it difficult to be sure who those children were. It may be from the fact that Roger only received ten shillings in his father's will that he was set up in business as a corn merchant by his father a few years before.

Family\_Line\_ 32:

**John**<sup>(1576.29)</sup>

**&**

**Jane Dover**

Susan<sup>(1599.32)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1614.32)</sup>

Daniel<sup>(1617.32)</sup>

From family line 29  
Page 127

John<sup>(1576.29)</sup> whose birthday was 12<sup>th</sup> August 1576 was baptised at Hargrave Church.<sup>197</sup> He married Jane Dover from Depden in 1603. They married at Depden Church.

Susan was born 9<sup>th</sup> April 1604 and entered into the Bishop's records wrongly as daughter of Jeremiah and Jone<sup>198</sup>. However, coming one year after the marriage of John and Jane, (9<sup>th</sup> April 1604), the place of baptism being the same as the marriage and the absence of any other records of a couple named Jeremiah and Joan makes it probable that the writer was distracted (or perhaps inebriated).

Like her cousin Anne, Susan was to receive items from her grandmother Margaret's will in January 1621. Susan was to become eighteen in the April when she heard : ' ... to Susan Lymer daughter to John Lymer my next holland apron, a pewter platter and a sheet.'<sup>199</sup> Elizabeth<sup>(1614.32)</sup> baptised 11th September 1614, being six-and-a-half, would hardly appreciate such Items.

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197 Hargrave Bishop's Transcripts 1574-1707 and parish registers 1707-1720.

198 The confusion over her parent's named 'Jeremiah and Jone' in the bishop's transcript might be daughter of 'Thomas and Joan', another couple who married the same year. Her birth date fits either but I suspect on the evidence of Margaret's will she is the daughter of John and Jane.

199 Margaret's will 1621.



## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

Daniel son of John and Jane Lymmer was baptised 4th January 1617.

Family\_Line\_ 33:

**Mary**<sup>(1581.29)</sup>

**&**

**Thomas Frost**

Thomas frost

*From family line 29  
Page 127*

Born 13 August 1581 Mary<sup>(1581.29)</sup> Married Mr Thomas Frost<sup>200</sup> 1610 in Rede, Suffolk.

John came from Rede and it looks like they set up home there. There is no record of what John did for a living but Rede was a small village of no more than five or six houses at this time all belonging to a cereal farm. There were no major roads to Rede only a narrow track into the wild.

Soon afterwards they moved to Colebrooke, Cornwall where Thomas Frost Junior was born.

Unfortunately John Frost died before November 1619 when Mary<sup>(1581.29)</sup>, a widow at 38, and her son Thomas took out a 99 year lease on a quarter tenement.<sup>201</sup>

Family\_Line\_ 34:

**William**<sup>(1583.29)</sup>

*From family line 29  
Page 127*

Edward<sup>(1585.U)</sup> born 1585 in Hargrave later married Elizabeth about 1622 AD. They had at least one child born 5 Oct 1623 at Hargrave but simply marked in the register as daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Lymmer.

Finally, the baby of the family, Samuel born in 1587 but unfortunately died before his third birthday.

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200 The baptism transcript is unclear but from Cornwall records office : CY/2057 would appear to be the same family.

201 Cornwall records office : CY/2057 10 November 1619 : .... *to hold 1\4 part for 99 years. or 3 lives. Thos. Frost, son. of Mary Frost of Colebrooke, widow; ... After her death, for lives of Thos. Frost,...*

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

Family\_Line\_ 35:

**Samuel**<sup>(1587.29)</sup>

*From family line 29*

*Page 127*

## Chapter 12 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE

### Last will and Testimony Of John (Lymmor) - Hargrave - yeoman

Dated 13 May 1618

Married to Margaret and this will to be activated on her death.

Concerning Parcel of land called Bushey Close(10 acres + 3 acres and 3 roods) Situated between the manor on the north and the land of Thomas Limmer on the south Plus Leased land (4 acres)

Thomas Limmer to inherit the lands and house  
Thomas and his heirs to pay £30 per year

This to be divided out among :

Son John £6 per year

Daughter Mary Frost - £6 per year

Son William -£6 per year

Son Edward -£6 per year

Son Samuel - £6 per year

Son Roger 10 s and the residue of household stuff

First Witness William Quarles

Second Witness **John Smythe**

*Last\_will 2: John Lymmer*

### *Interlude of Interest 5: The Quarles Family*

Among those that signed John's will was William Quarles  
A solicitor from Bury St Edmunds. But not just any old  
Solicitor

William Quarles was Master of the Mercers' Company in  
1617, The Quarles were very notable family, keeping  
company with King Charles I. All the Quarles family did  
well at Cambridge.



William's brother Francis, pictured, became an English  
poet most famous for his emblem book '*Emblems*'

From his poem '*The Divine rapture*', based on the biblical  
'Song of Solomon' it appears the whole family were  
influenced by the Reformation movement going on in  
Cambridge at the time though what that did for the  
families' relationship with king Charles I - I do not know.



## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2

On the opposite side of the main road from John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> and Margaret's land stood John's brother William's<sup>(1555.28)</sup> farm. William's<sup>(1555.28)</sup> land was not freehold like his brother's, it was copyhold<sup>202</sup> from the manor. The agreement came into force when the manor was devolved in 1558 and was therefore probably taken out by either father or grandfather Roger. Whoever took it out, it gave opportunity for Roger<sup>(1530.)</sup> to keep his original land as a unit passed on through the eldest son John according to the terms laid down, while providing for William to farm also.

Family\_Line\_ 36:

**William<sup>(1555.28)</sup>**

**& Alice (Wytte)**

Thomas<sup>(1582.36)</sup>

Alice<sup>(1585.36)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1587.36)</sup>

*From family line 28  
Page124*

The Limmer family got together to celebrate the wedding of William<sup>(1555.28)</sup> and Alice<sup>203</sup>. William married Alice around 1581. His first son Thomas<sup>(1582.36)</sup> was born in 1582

You may remember William Whyte inherited an annuity out of Shotesham manor. Which annuity passed down to his son, also William Whyte, who went into the church. Quite what relationship Alice was to William Whyte, the elder of All saints church Southill, I cannot tell. William Whyte left

his best robe to her in his will<sup>204</sup>.

If you think John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> and Margaret were wealthy then William and

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202 copyhold tenure was tenure of land according to the custom of the manor, the "title deeds" being a copy of the record of the manor court.

203 Alice may be Alice Wytte daughter of William Wytte senior.

204 Will of William Wytte, Aylesbury Records office, Beds see also discussion footnote 143 on page 103

## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2

Alice were too. William<sup>(1555.28)</sup> was a successful yeoman living within the estates of Hargrave Manor. Like John his brother, by the time William wrote his will<sup>205</sup> Thomas<sup>(1582.36)</sup> was running most of the farm while William and Alice had moved into the smaller house on the north edge of their estate. Alice was given seven pound per half year and an apartment on the north west side of his estate, (where he and Alice were living already)<sup>206</sup>. A point of interest revolves around the *fire and chimney*<sup>207</sup> mentioned in the will. Alice is '*given rights of use for the term of her life*'. This was an external kiln of some sort, situated on the access lane to the Hall. The description of the estate in the will, places it at the opposite end of the village to a blacksmiths yard marked on a later map<sup>208</sup>. The blacksmiths forge may not have been there in Alice's day but the fire and chimney certainly were. Therefore, the question is, what was the '*Chimney and fyre*'<sup>209</sup> mentioned in the will? Several sources<sup>210</sup> indicate a brickyard and brickworks possibly in or before King Henry VIII's time.

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205 Wife Alice is appointed as sole executor: not much can be found about the witnesses.

206 See map 7 Hargrave land distribution 1600 AD .

207 Chimneys were a relatively new thing Up until now smaller houses had simply put a hole in the roof or the wall but now the dynamics of Draft had been recognised.

208 1801 maps show this at the southern end of the village. Samuel Lymmer owned this property C1650 and by 1801 it is shown as a blacksmiths forge.

209 This discussion continues from an earlier chapter while dealing with Limmers and the Lime industry.

210 Goulst W. A Survey of Parish History 1990: Hargrave Tithe map 1839: Pankhurst C.J. Brick kilns in Suffolk 1988. This is unlikely to be the kiln mentioned in the will as it is further south in the village by what is now known as the white house. Two more pieces of circumstantial evidence can be raised here: (i) The kiln is close to land owned by Roger Lymmer<sup>(1530.19)</sup>. (ii) Early white houses were houses coated with lime suggesting it was a lime kiln.

## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2

Hargrave Tithe mentions '*Brick Lane*' and '*Brick Kiln Field*' in Hargrave these appear on William's land in the middle of Hargrave. This kiln seems to have been present during the monk's time (before 1550). But why would Alice need rights to the furnace? Was she a business lady<sup>211</sup>? Maybe the kiln was used for firing clay products. Clay pipes would almost certainly be made at the brickworks on William's land before his time. If clay, then maybe pots and plates. Archaeological reports by the Suffolk Industrial Archaeological Society tend to focus on bricks but there is no reason to suppose that was all the furnace produced. In fact, most kilns for one product would also accommodate a blacksmith, even if it were just for family use.

The monks made the bottles into which they put their distilled beers and wines so there is no reason to suppose this kiln was for glass blowing. While Hargrave was owned and farmed by the monks of Bury, there is evidence that they maintained the buildings by local industry. Horenger supplied the bulk of lime for cementing. Horenger did have a lime kiln. Tiles were manufactured at Chevington, while stone was brought down from Nottingham. Hargrave seems to have supplied brick and pipe. The most probable story is that the kiln started out as brick kiln used by the monks and doubled as a lime kiln, (given that William was a progressive farmer and grew crops on clay soil). With a growing family and lowering prices for grain (*and increased taxes*), William would have diversified to take advantage of the rising demand for bricks and mortar at this period of history.

From this, we can assume the chimney and fire were used for both brick and clay pipe. In the neighbouring village of Denham, (the

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211 Since the time of Black death Women had entered into what was a 'man's world' because of labour shortages. There are many instances of Business or 'Free women' during this period. .



## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2

village that adjoined William's fields), the Potter family were beginning to establish themselves, adding to the speculation that this furnace was only one of a number in that area.

The suggestion that this was a bread-baking oven is ruled out on the basis that bread would still have been done in domestic ovens until 1700's. However, as the kiln seems to be near Alice's annex, William might have just been concerned his wife Alice had access to heat in cold winters. What we can assert however, is the kiln would have supplied some lime by around fourteen-fifty in response to the recommended practices in '*Goode Husbandry*'<sup>212</sup>, in order to "*sweeten the clay land and increase grain yields*".

Family\_Line\_37:

**Thomas**<sup>(1582.36)</sup>

**&**

**Susan Hoskin**

George<sup>(1615.37)</sup>

William<sup>(1617.37)</sup>

From family line 36

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William's<sup>(1555.28)</sup> son Thomas<sup>(1582.36)</sup>, married Susan Hoskin in Hargrave on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1615 AD age around twenty-nine. Their first-born son made a remarkably quick arrival on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November that same year. They named him George<sup>(1615.37)</sup>. Unfortunately George died soon after birth leaving William<sup>(1617.37)</sup>. His second son, to inherit the farm. For those who like puzzles, here is a question, why George? Answers please on a postcard ... .<sup>213</sup> Thomas<sup>(1582.36)</sup> Died 1637. Just as Thomas inherited the whole farm from his father, the whole farm was to pass on to William<sup>(1617.37)</sup>. who in turn passed most of it onto his son

212 1693. Goode Husbandry . By Monsr. De La Quintinye, The French King's gardener Illustrated with Copper Plates, and seized upon by Yeoman up and down the British land.

213 Thomas' father broke with tradition in calling him after his grandfather and from the quick arrival of George it appears Thomas bucked the trend further perhaps naming him after Susan's father. Thomas did call his second son after his father William.

## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2

Family\_Line\_38:

**William<sup>(1617.37)</sup>**

**&**

**Bridget**

Thomas<sup>(1652.38)</sup>

Esther<sup>(1654.38)</sup>

Robert<sup>(1656.38)</sup>

Samuel<sup>(1658.38)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1661.38)</sup>

*From family line 37  
Page 141*

Thomas<sup>(1652.38)</sup>.

In fact William<sup>(1617.37)</sup> rearranged the southern part of his farm and built a house, stables and barns. In his will he has not quite finished this project and left instruction for Thomas<sup>(1652.38)</sup> to finish the new ditch which was to be the boundary line separating two fields for Samuel<sup>(1658.38)</sup>, A yard for Robert<sup>(1656.38)</sup> and the house and two closes for Bridget. Thomas remained in possession of the vast part of the farm as we can be seen in the map 7 Hargrave land distribution 1600 AD on page 121. Cousin William Lymmer was renting the house in which Alice spent her final days.

From his will, William<sup>(1617.37)</sup> Limmer reveals his first daughter Alice<sup>(1586.36)</sup> married Nicolas Nobell while second daughter Mary<sup>(1587.36)</sup> married Samuel Palmer.<sup>214</sup> Descendants of both these family names go out to America from England as Puritans on the “White sails”<sup>215</sup> before 1660. There is no clear evidence to show Alice or Mary went to America, they probably did not. But there is a lot of Puritan movement around Hargrave at this time. While William Limmer’s family unsuspectingly

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214 In September, 1636, a William Palmer was cited for absence from St.

Margaret's Church in Great Ormsby, England. He had become a Puritan and was subject to persecution under Archbishop Laud. No doubt he left secretly at the time of the Great Migration which reached a peak in 1636. Samuel Palmer Husband of Mary Limmer also appears in Puritan circles. Christopher Palmer, son of William and Mary, born in Great Ormsby, England, in 1636, married Susanna Hilton, daughter of Edward Hilton in America, on November 7, 1650. (An unverified web site source claims this line leads to President Truman).

215 White sails were a fleet of sailing ships, chartered by the puritans in partnership with growing businesses, who went across to New England.

## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2

worked their copyhold<sup>216</sup> grounds in Hargrave, the Sibbes<sup>217</sup> family attended to their blacksmith and wheelwright business less than ten miles away in Thurston. Almost certainly, these two families would have met in the business world if not in the church at Thurston. Thurston Church, becoming interested with the new Bible that its congregation could read for itself, began to lean toward this new Puritanism. Little did these two families know that two generations on from here, they would be related as grandparents-in-law.

William<sup>(1584.23)</sup> died in 1667 at the age of 68 years.<sup>218</sup> The farm was divided up on his death. Henry Frost, Anne's eldest son took charge

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216 William was farming under the new copyhold system. A contract that appears to have lasted until the year 1700 AD. This system had been introduced by early 1500's to provide stable farming conditions and avoid the fluctuation of harvest recently experienced in years of famine followed by glut. The new system provided for tenure-ship at set rent rises and legally bound under manorial court sessions. As there is no mentions of an inheritance transfer tax payable to the owner of the manor, it is probable that this agreement being drawn up after about 1495 AD when this clause was dropped. But as the rents seem reasonable at seven pounds per year, it is unlikely that the original agreement was drawn new by each of the brothers. More likely, their Father made the agreement, especially as the land seems to be divided among other brothers and sister also. Thomas Limmer, (shoemaker), did not have any land under this agreement, it was mortgaged, re-enforcing the opinion that it was the father, Roger<sup>(1530)</sup> and not the grandfather, Roger 1497 that originated the agreement. This date also concurs with Henry VIII's confiscation of church property. All the evidence suggests, while Limmers owned some land in the south-west of Hargrave, Limmers became copyholders of church lands on the south-east side at the time of confiscation.

217 Richard Sibbes was a leading puritan preacher. We will meet this family again in our narrative.

218 Maureen Darby – researched (1970-2010 ); Suffolk records office Bishops transcripts Suffolk Records Office SRO/L/3/16/7.

## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2

of 16 acres and messuage Sept 24 1668 <sup>219</sup>, gaining rights as a yeoman. Son William<sup>(1633.25)</sup> of William and Anne received the Hargrave farm land as a yeoman.<sup>220</sup> Anne continued to live at the messuage by contract until her death.

Elizabeth<sup>(1635.23)</sup> died unmarried, two years after her father in 1669 being buried on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1669 at the age of 34 years of age.<sup>221</sup>

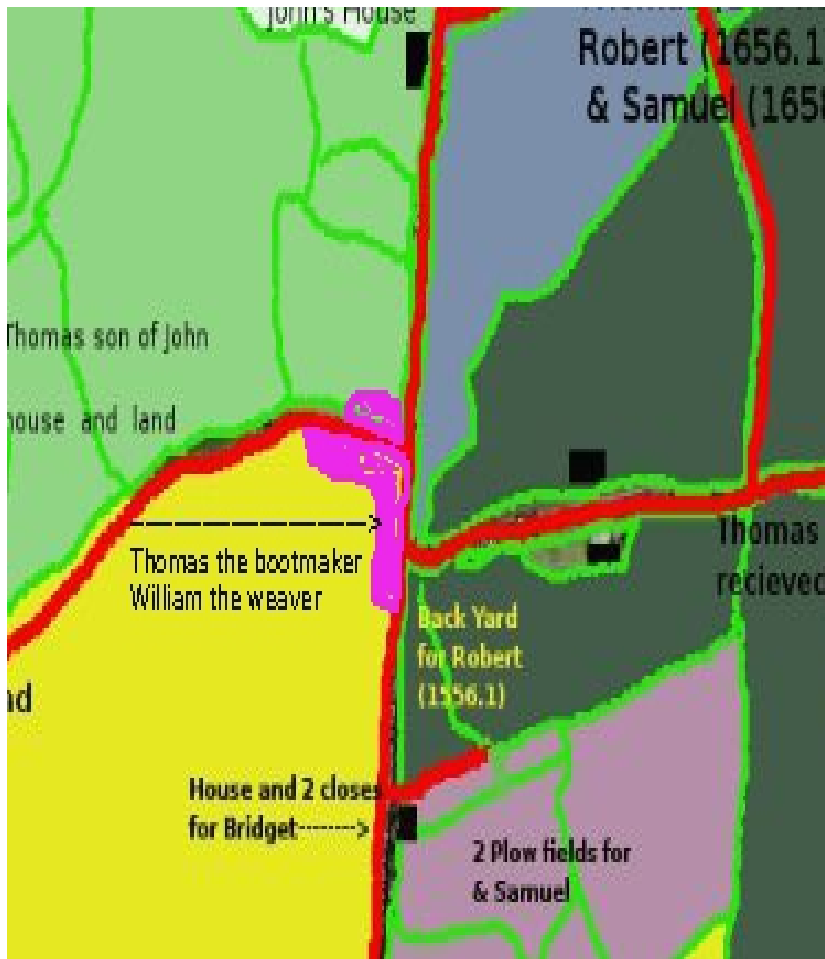
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219 Maureen Darby – researched (1970-2010 ); Suffolk records office Bishops transcripts Suffolk Records office Ha/519/2041.

220 Suffolk Records Office SRO/L/19/45 FILE - Copy of Admission (Hartest Manor) of Henry Frost, son of Ann Frost.

221 1668 'William Limmer 'messuage & 18 acres of land in Hartest 1668 September widow of William. Lymmer, to live in messuage and 18 acres in Hartest. - ref. HA 519/2041 .

## Chapter 13 THE PEOPLE OF HARGRAVE PART 2



## Chapter 14 WHAT'S MY LINE

Family\_Line\_39:

**Thomas**<sup>(1638.26)</sup>

**& Ann Revell**

Thomas<sup>(1667.39)</sup>

William<sup>(1669.39)</sup>

John<sup>(1672.39)</sup>

Benjamin<sup>(1676.39)</sup>

*From family line 26  
Page 109*

By 1630 King Charles was finding his feet. In 1629 he started to cause trouble by dissolving Parliament and it did not meet for another eleven years. He then took on the Church, declaring he wanted to abolish the Presbyterian<sup>222</sup> system. The country was building for civil war which finally broke out in 1642. In general Lymmers kept their heads down. One Jacob Lymmer managed to get himself excommunicated in the who-ha<sup>223</sup>, but while King Charles was raising his standard in Nottingham our next Limmer family was making luxury leather shoes and boots in Hargrave<sup>224</sup>.

Thomas and his wife Ann<sup>225</sup> ran their business from the industrial /retail park situated to the south of the village<sup>226</sup> and on the crossroads with Ousden road and Chevindon road. In the same park was a blacksmith, a wheelwright and a weaver- possibly William<sup>(1584.23)</sup>.<sup>227</sup>

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222 A system of church government where Leaders sit as a council of 'Elders'

223 Letters Denunciation of Excommunication File AH12/267/6

224 Possibly for army officers as we will discuss later.

225 Thomas is the earliest proven direct line descendant of the writer. Thomas' route of descent from Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> is unproven. However, all four possible ancestral routes merge again in Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> so the line is reaffirmed again from there.

226 See map Map 8 on page 145

227 This may be William<sup>(1584.23)</sup> Lymmer, Weaver, who was Indicted to appear as witness for Thomas Stratcher butcher, accused of stealing a calf worth 16s. 12 march 1627 T/A 418/101/23.

## Chapter 14 WHAT'S MY LINE

Thomas does not seem to be part of the 'in crowd' <sup>228</sup>. He probably came from outside of Hargrave. Henry Craske's family, all good military folk, were seated around Ipswich, as were most of his wife Anne's family, (although Anne Revell's parents appear to have moved to Rede). <sup>229</sup>

Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup> and Ann had four children<sup>230</sup>

- 1) *Thomas baptised 15<sup>th</sup> August 1667,*
- 2) *William Baptised 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1669,*
- 3) *John Baptised 20<sup>th</sup> August 1672*
- 4) *Benjamin Baptised 15<sup>th</sup> August 1676. Benjamin died Hargrave 18 February 1699 aged twenty-three.*

When Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup> and Ann baptised their third son, John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> in 1672, things were going well in the boot making business. Thomas secured a supply of the new good quality soft leather from Cordova in Spain and applied his trade – no longer as a boot maker – but as a Cordwainer<sup>231</sup>.

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228 Although John and William' descendants mixed with professionals from Bury, (people like the Quarles, the Fletchers, the Smythes and the Moorleyes),

Thomas relied on his good friend Henry Craske to help his wife after his death.

229 John Revell married Anne Cornell and later moved to Rede Suffolk : The Revell family ; Roy Bullen.

230 Maureen Darby – researched (1970-2010 ); Suffolk Records Office

231 A cordwainer (or cordovan) – as distinct from the standard boot maker- made fine soft leather shoes and other luxury footwear articles. From the leather produced in Córdoba, Spain. Cordwainers were historically taught and controlled by the guild of the 'Worshipful Company of Cordwainers' in London. Records show one Tobias Lymmer who rented a tenement for £4.0s.0d in Westminster during this period *source : Inhabitants of London T.C. Dale (1931)*. This may be our Thomas .

## Chapter 14 WHAT'S MY LINE

Thomas Limmer & sons Cordwainer.

Having a very good friend named Henry Craske<sup>232</sup> raises the question. Did Thomas, like many cobblers and Cordwainer of his day, learned his trade in the Army, or was he just educated in the Cordwainers College of London? We cannot tell. Both might be true as the army used many education establishments to work alongside in training. Thomas was clearly keen his children should be well educated.

Cordwainers produced the very best boots for gentry to ride with the hounds or officers to wear when in military dress. Such was the quality of these new boots that fathers passed them on to sons in wills. Thomas saw fit to expand his business, (possibly out of a demand created by the civil war). He mortgaged his factory, (but seemingly not his house), to Mr. Deeke<sup>233</sup> so that he might expand his business. Unfortunately, he could not see the future. Three years later, after Thomas and Anne had a fourth son, Benjamin, sadly, Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup> took ill and died.

All four boys were still minors when Thomas died, John<sup>(1672.39)</sup>, the second youngest, being only seven years old. The house, lands and business, were sold under the watchful eye of good family friend Mr.

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232 Henry Craske, mentioned as a Good Friend in Thomas' will, is listed as an officer in the Army in 1649. Maybe the friendship started in the Cromwellian war. Many friendships of this era were started by the camaraderie bred into army training. The term Cordwainer was accentuated by the army at this time as boots that lasted well under the rigours of war were distinguishable from the common footwear of citizens.

233 Mr Deeke had a mortgage and auctioneers business in Crown Street Bury St. Edmunds.



## Chapter 14 WHAT'S MY LINE

Henry Craske<sup>234</sup>, proceeds from the sale paid off the mortgage, and the remainder invested to provide an income for Anne. A sum was set aside for the education of the four sons. Having sold the business and redeemed the mortgage in line with Thomas Limmer's will, Henry Craske settled Anne, with her children, in a smaller house in Chevington (less than a mile away from Hargrave and one stagecoach stop away). The children were probably already being educated at Chevington, which had a good school, and shop. About three years into Anne's widowhood, she remarried. Roger Haywood<sup>235</sup> was a widower from Chevington After they married in 1681. The couple had three children:

- 1) *James in 1682*
- 2) *Roger in 1683*
- 3) *and Sarah in 1683).*

*Both Roger and Sarah died in childhood being buried in Hargrave.*

Once again the chapter ends with a question Who were Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup> ancestors? Here are four possible routes<sup>236</sup>.

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234 Mr. Henry Craske, (being the gentleman the title Mr. affords), or his descendant , can be found among those who travelled to America under Puritan conviction in 1685/6 AD. Henry Craske was also a friend of William as he is signatory to his will in 1675.

235 Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010 ) ; Suffolk Records Office.

236 My hunch is Thomas<sup>(1638)</sup> descended from Richard or preferably William because this side of the family were educated in skilled trades, Daniel and George were from the farming side of the family. All branches seem to unite in Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup> I am sure we will uncover the evidence soon but meantime, for the sake of continuity in the text I have called him Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup>

## Chapter 14 WHAT'S MY LINE

<p>Family Line_ 40: John<sup>(1470.U)</sup>  Possibly John<sup>(1470.U)</sup> who witnessed the Will of William Caston of Lavenham in 1504</p>			
<p><b>Roger<sup>(1497.7)</sup></b>  <b>See Family Line 19 page 102</b></p>			
<p><b>Roger<sup>(1530.19)</sup> See Family Line 28</b></p>		<p>Probably William<sup>(1525.19)</sup></p>	
<p><b>John<sup>(1545.28)</sup> &amp; Margaret</b></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><b>William<sup>(1555.28)</sup> &amp; Alice</b></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><b>William<sup>(1548.U)</sup> &amp; Rose</b></p> <p>↓</p>	
<p><i>John<sup>(1576.29)</sup> &amp; Jane</i></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><i>Thomas<sup>(1582.36)</sup> &amp; Susan</i></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><b>William<sup>(1584.23)</sup> &amp; Alice Stewart</b></p> <p>↓</p>	
<p><i>Daniel<sup>(1617.32)</sup></i></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><i>George<sup>(1615.37)</sup></i></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><i>William<sup>(1613.24)</sup></i></p> <p>↓</p>	<p><i>Richard<sup>(1610.24)</sup></i></p> <p>↓</p>
<p><b>Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup> &amp; Ann Revell</b></p>			

Family\_Line\_ 41: Possible ancestral routes of Thomas<sup>(1638.26)</sup>

NOTE: For the sake of clarity and traceability only I have allocated Thomas to Richard's line - 26

## History of Limmers

### Last will and Testimony Of Thomas Limmer of Hargrave (Reproduced Summary Date probably June 1679)

Thomas Limmer - Chordwainer

Wife Anne gets all other personal estate and effects.  
Anne and Henry Craske (Mr) to sell the business

The mortgage to be redeemed from Edward Deeke

The remainder to be divided equally between 4 sons on their 21<sup>st</sup>  
birthday: Thomas, William, John, Benjamin

Meantime the money to be invested and the annual interest to pay for the  
boys education.

Anne to receive all personal goods and chattels, including the house  
(*implied*) as her own.

Executor : **Anne**

Witnesses : **Thomas Cavel,**      **JOHN LYON,**  
*Samuel Deekes.*

*Last\_will 3: Thomas Limmer*

## Chapter 15 TOSTOCK & CHEVINGTON ERA

**T**ostock was a very small community 15 miles from Chevington housed around 30 households in 1700 AD. There was a thriving cottage industry here. A narrow lane off of Leys Road leads to three houses remaining from around 1700 AD. It may well have been one of these that housed the clothing industry run by the Sibbes family. Elizabeth Sibbes would no doubt have been part of the workforce from an early age. Being the daughter she would have learned the trade starting with small errands and moving onto spinning. It would be doubtful if she learned wool-combing as this was a heavy and dirty job more suitable for men of that day.

Family\_Line\_42:

**John**<sup>(1672.39)</sup>

**&**

**Elizabeth Sibbes**

Esther<sup>(1701.42)</sup>

John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>

Thomas<sup>(1705.42)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1708.42)</sup>

Sarah<sup>(1712.42)</sup>

*From family line 39  
Page 146*

As there were so few people in the village, Some employment would have been bought in from outside. One such was an apprentice named John.

John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> later married Elizabeth Sibbes August 23rd 1700 at Tostock. John's parents were Thomas the cordwainer, and Anne of Hargrave. You will remember John was a minor when his father Thomas died. but he was left with a trust fund to see him through his education. When he left school John set out to become a clothier. He lived in Chevington, later moving to Tostock. A clothier would produce garments by processing them right through from wool to weave to suit or dress. To embark on his career John would need to

## History of Limmers

know the ins and outs of a house industry. John would have learned how to handle shepherds, shearers, wool-combers, spinners, cutters and sewers besides the financing and selling. This sets the scene for John's descendants who each learned part of the trade.

When school was out, John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> apprenticed himself to a clothier to learn the trade. The appropriate age of John, the short distance of nine miles between Chevington and Tostock and a known clothier factory run by the Sibbes family employing the residents of Tostock at the time, make it highly likely that John served his seven-year apprenticeship under Elizabeth's father Thomas Sibbes the clothier of Tostock.

If so, at the age of 22, in August 1700, John married the boss' daughter Elizabeth. It looks as though they lived near the in-laws for the first year. By the following year John and Elizabeth had their first Daughter. Esther<sup>(1701.42)</sup> was baptised 15th October 1701 at Tostock Church.

1703 saw John settle the family back in Chevington<sup>237</sup> with their own branch of the business, Just in time for John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> to be baptised 24<sup>th</sup> October 1703 at Chevington.

Thomas<sup>(1705.42)</sup> only lived for three months, being baptised 7<sup>th</sup> October 1705 and buried 7<sup>th</sup> February 1706 in Chevington graveyard<sup>238</sup>.

Two years passed before John and Elizabeth had their second Daughter, Elizabeth<sup>(1708.42)</sup> born and baptised by 5th December 1708. They were still in their home town of Chevington.

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237 John was still in Chevington with his own clothier company in 1731 :SRO /L/47/16.

238 Details of this family are from Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010 ); and Suffolk records office Bishops transcripts

## Chapter 15 TOSTOCK & CHEVINGTON ERA

Surprise baby daughter Sarah<sup>(1712.42)</sup> arrived four years later. baptised 15th September 1712 Chevington.

The business fared well and John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> was able to provide ample during these boom years. John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> was probably feeling his age in 1717 when he took on another apprentice. Indentures were signed the 4<sup>th</sup> December for a young lad from Coney Western, Suffolk.<sup>239</sup> John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> was buried at Chevington August 8th 1731 aged 53.

His son John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>, at 28, married and having learned the trade well, was ready to take over the business. John left a will.<sup>240</sup>

Elizabeth lived a further twelve years and was buried at Chevington May 3rd 1743.

*Figure 10: Tuddenham School*



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239 Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811

240 Bury-Saint-Edmunds Records office.

*Interlude\_of\_Interest 6: Chevington*

10 Kilometres south west of Bury-Saint-Edmunds,  
Chevington means the clearing place of ‘tun’ of Chefan,  
a tribal leader

By 1086 the doomsday book records  
....the Abbot acquired the manor of Chevington  
(Ceuentuna) with thirteen Villeins, six slaves one-  
hundred-and-forty sheep, forty goats and three bee hives

In the devolution of 1539, Sir Thomas Kytson of  
Hengrave was granted the manor and all its rights.

In 1716, the Gage family, (having acquired it by  
marriage), sold it to John Hervey, the Marquis of Bristol.

It remains today, part of the Bristol Estate.

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA

### Background

**A**t the turn of 1700 AD, Tuddenham had around 100 inhabitants. This rose to 268 by the 1801 census 481 by 1851 and back down to 329 by 1891.

Family Line 43:  
**Stephen**<sup>(1784.56)</sup>  
&  
**Frances Norman**

Lucy<sup>(1809.43)</sup>

Philip<sup>(1810.43)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1812.43)</sup>

Charles<sup>(1814.43)</sup>

Stephen<sup>(1816.43)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1821.43)</sup>

Matilda<sup>(1824.43)</sup>

Henry<sup>(1829.43)</sup>

*From family line  
56  
Page 199*

Tuddenham and its surrounding lands was owned by the marquis of Bristol, and leased out in smallholdings. Some of these were quiet large for the term smallholding.

By 1838, Stephen<sup>(1816.43)</sup> Limmer owned and occupied a cottage next to the rectory and a short walk from the church, on the border of Tuddenham according to the tithe map. The church tithe was included in the rent of the smallholdings, which was of course, advantageous to the Marquis of Bristol as it could have both a value added factor and a tax concession from the treasury.

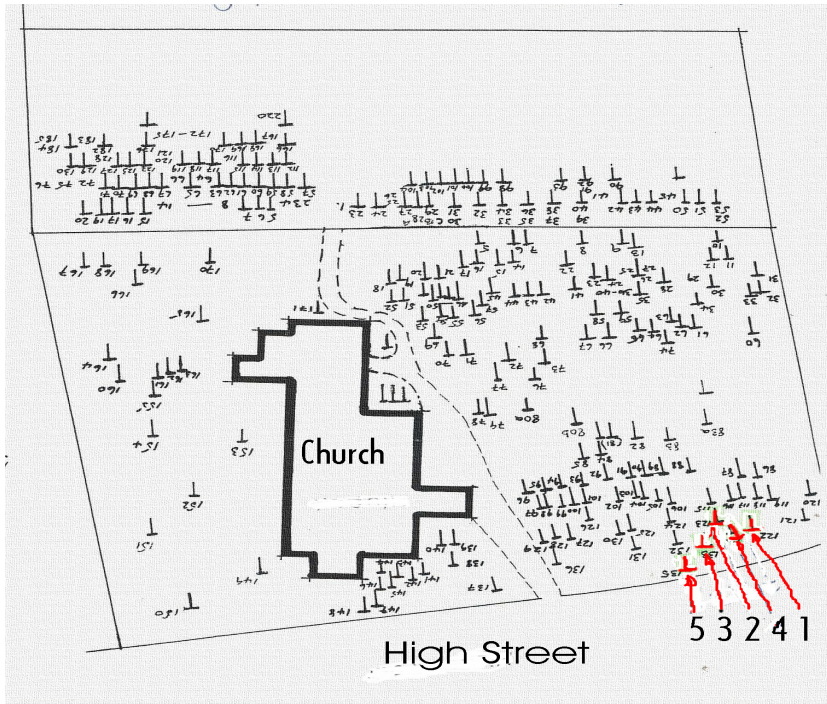
The village school was built by the church in 1728. All the early records are lost so there is little hope of proving how many of the Limmers were educated there. It did become a good school and by 1809, Nathan Todd (the curate) had become master of Tuddenham free grammar school.

There is evidence that some Limmers were educated to a high degree, as it appears John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> was the accountant and executor of Tuddenham Water mill at the time of his fathers' death.



## History of Limmers

Limmers of Tuddenham seem to be as closely knitted in death as in life. The church graveyard map below, plotted in August 1981, marks the fading headstones. Limmers are in two rows immediately to the right as you go through the gate.



*Map 9: Tuddenham Church and Limmer Graves*

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA

1. A large Monument and foot-stone denotes the grave of Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> who died June 11<sup>th</sup> 1818 aged 75. He is buried with his wife Elizabeth who died 5<sup>th</sup> May 1807 aged 58.
2. A tomb-stone head marks the spot for Philip Limmer who died December 19<sup>th</sup> 1833 aged 78.
3. A simple headstone and foot-stone marks William Limmer. The weather beaten stone is hardly readable but commemorates William Limmer who died 1771.
4. John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> has a head-stone and foot stone.
5. And finally a family headstone in memory of William, Diana, (wife of William), and four of their children Frances<sup>(1776.49)</sup> George<sup>(1771.49)</sup> Susan<sup>(1772.49)</sup> and William<sup>(1774.49)</sup>.

Family\_Line\_44:

**Philip<sup>(1810.43)</sup>**  
**&**  
**Harriet**

*From family line 43  
Page 156*

Philip<sup>(1810.43)</sup> married Harriet in 1836 and Died 2nd December 1859 aged 49. He was buried in Marylebone .

Henry<sup>(1829.43)</sup> Henry married Louisa Goodyer 16th April 1854 in Clerkenwell. Louisa was born in Lincolnshire in 1831, and moved with her family to Clerkenwell around 1840.

Henry<sup>(1829.43)</sup> and Philip<sup>(1810.43)</sup> mark the start of Suffolk Limmer's migration into the East end of London. One or two Limmers had made their way to London before this time but they had kept a house for retreating to the mother county. Now, with harder times and less wealth in the family, the ties are being cut. According to the

## History of Limmers

Family\_Line\_ 45:  
**Henry**<sup>(1829.43)</sup>  
&  
**Louisa Goodyer**

*From family line 43  
page 156*

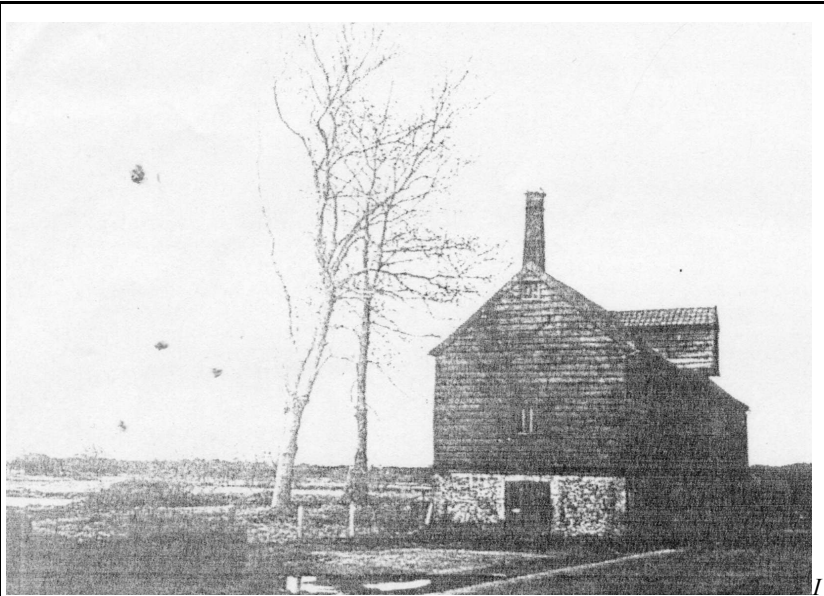
1841 census there are seven Limmers living in Middlesex three of whom were born in Suffolk or Norfolk. Only one of these can be found in the 1841 census under Limmer. Henry and Louisa are found living in Clerkenwell as 'Lamer' while Philip is recorded as 'Lummer' of Marylebone. I presume the scribe could not understand the broad Suffolk accent.

One other mystery person appears in the Tuddenham story. Thomas Limmer is mentioned several times in the context of William (Miller) Limmer. Thomas insured the windmill at Tuddenham in 1788 and held the lease of the water mill in 1801. Thomas is also mentioned in the context of James Limmer of Bury-Saint-Edmunds. This mysterious Thomas, obviously a man of money, appears and disappears in the Limmer story but he leaves behind a hint of relationship between the Bury Limmers and Tuddenham Limmers. He may have been cousin to both nuclear families having descended from either William<sup>(1714.U)</sup> or Samuel<sup>(1789.U)</sup> of Norfolk. There are several Thomas' documented in the Limmer line but none seem to fit this Thomas.

There were three Mills - two windmills and a watermill in Tuddenham.

The Marquis of Bristol owned the land Tuddenham water mill stood on, though the mill belonged to the Limmer family who leased the land. A watermill on this site is mentioned in the doomsday book. The mill, almost as the Limmers knew it, still exists today as a hotel and restaurant. It ceased grinding corn in 1956.

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA



*Figure 11: Tuddenham Water Mill C1795*

The second Mill is smock mill marked in Hodskinsons map about two miles from the water mill on the main road just outside Little Barton. The third, a wooden clad post mill about half of a mile from the water mill on the Barton Mills road.

John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> Son of John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> and Elizabeth, did not follow his father into the clothing industry but became a Yeoman,<sup>241</sup> moving from the corn/maize farms of Chevington and Herringswell to the more general farms of Tuddenham, somewhere between 1737 and 1739 (between the birth of their children Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> and Mary<sup>(1739.46)</sup>).

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241 probably a manager or foreman rather than a freehold land owner. (Yeoman can mean either by this period of history). John did seem to move from village to village with ease.

## History of Limmers



*Figure 12: Tuddenham Water Mill as seen today*

John also leased a smallholding from the Marquis of Bristol, a piece of land about half a mile from Tuddenham water mill. It is on this land John had the post mill was built for his son William<sup>(1733.46)</sup>. By the time William<sup>(1733.46)</sup> married Diana in 1762, he was known locally as William ‘the miller’ Limmer.

William<sup>(1733.46)</sup> Limmer insured ‘*the goods in trade at the water mill*’ and ‘*his windmill built and boarded*’<sup>242</sup> for £100 on the 9th April 1776. As this is the earliest record of the insurance company, we cannot tell if John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> miller had water mill and the post mill

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242 Royal Exchange insurance records.

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA

before this date. The cost of building the windmill gives the clue that it was a wooden clad post mill rather than a brick based one.

Assuming John was insured with another company before he took out a policy with the *Royal Exchange*, on the 4th November 1795, he had reason to claim on his insurance. The sail of the mill was “*feloniously taken*”<sup>243</sup> on Monday night or early Tuesday morning (the 12 / 13th day of October ) the Bury and Norwich Post records “*a certain sailcloth belonging to William Limmer being stolen. William Limmer offered two guineas for information leading to conviction of these villainous fellows*”.

William, feeling his age at fifty-five, allowed Thomas Limmer to take charge, closely holding together a family concern until William’s death at the water mill in 1788. Both water mill and windmill were working during this time but harder times were around the corner.

The corn failures of 1795 and 1800 did little to help millers at this time. The lease had to be paid because the Marquis of Bristol was not a sympathetic sort of person when it came to money. The three hundred year lease on the land and mills expired after 1801 and the land was due to revert to the manorial estate.

Whether the Marquis of Bristol decided to sell the mill before or after the lease ran out in 1801, we may never know, but it certainly seems to have worried William. We get a hint that John Branwhite<sup>244</sup> and John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> <sup>245</sup> also had invested interest in the business. When William died in 1801 these two, become

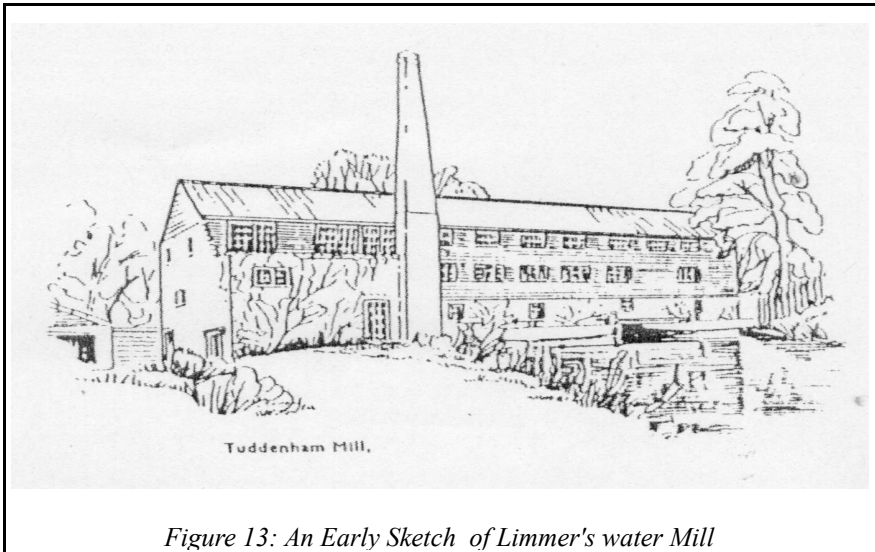
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243 The Bury and Norwich Post 6<sup>th</sup> November 1775

244 Husband of Ann<sup>(1782.49)</sup>.

245 Son of William miller Limmer,

## History of Limmers



*Figure 13: An Early Sketch of Limmer's water Mill*

executors, winding up the business and executing William's will.

John Branwhite, was declared bankrupt in 1801<sup>246</sup>. His sister died the same year. According to her will, which Eleanor of Lavenham, had signed on 25 November 1801, her brother Richard and John Dunningham were ordered to sell all her interests and her personal fortune dividing the proceeds of the sale five ways. John was not to receive his share until his bankruptcy period lapsed. The monies to be held by his brothers in a trust.

Who bought the post mill belonging to the late William miller? It seems it was kept in the family for better times. Son John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> seems to have raised a mortgage for it. It was certainly in his

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246 County Court records : Also confirmed by will and probate of Eleanor of Lavenham 'Brother John ... a confession of Bankruptcy lately awarded.....'

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA

possession at the time of his death as he left it in his will. William also left considerable properties in Mildenhall, Brandon and Tuddenham so the crop failure did not completely bankrupt him.

William<sup>(1733.46)</sup> was obviously a newsworthy person as the Bury and Norwich news carried the news of his death in July 1801.

The mill and other parts of the farm were sold and the proceeds divided equally among four children John<sup>(1776.49)</sup>, Ann<sup>(1782.49)</sup> (who married John Branwhite the year her father died), Prudence<sup>(1764.49)</sup> and Frances<sup>(1767.49)</sup>. these were the only four children to outlive their father. Susanna, died the same year.

John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> brought the Farm at Little Barton with his share immediately after his father's death, where he erected another smock mill. It appears that he borrowed money from John Branwhite before his bankruptcy. John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> over did the credit to build a Mill on top of buying a farm. Within one year of building the new smock mill, the Sheriff ordered him to sell in order to cover his debts. Once again, Bury and Norwich post carries the story.<sup>247</sup>

John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> leased a piece of land from John Turner of Rectory after the sale and his father's death less than a year later. He carried on farming, probably livestock, as the land immediately around the mill being too rough to plant cereal. John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> still came off better than John Branwhite, as it appears he kept one of the two post mills and continued milling until his death in 1806.

The other post windmill and the watermill work closely together until 1844. What happened to Thomas Limmer after the lease ran

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247 See Figure 15 William Limmer's Smock Mill Tuddenham page 167



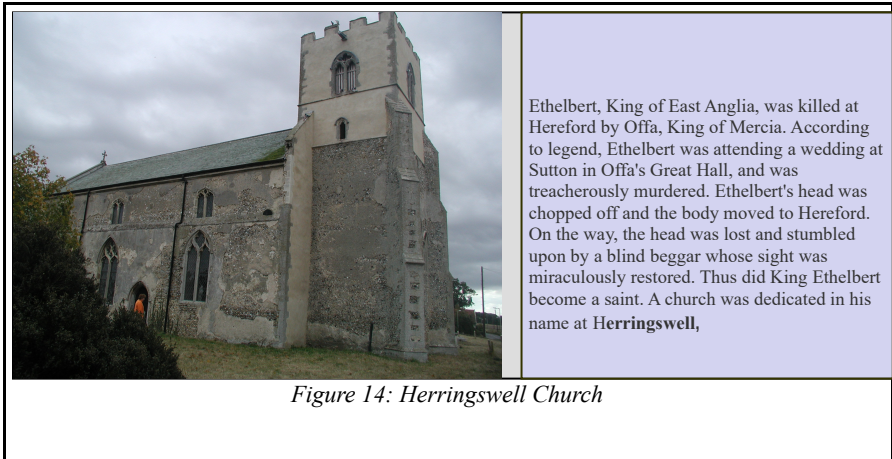
## History of Limmers

out in 1801 we do not know. To complete the story of the water mill, Thomas Steel bought the mill then died in 1838 leaving it to his son Thomas Steel Junior.

Thomas Steel Junior converted the water mill to steam in 1844. This was the demise of the windmill industry as the steam mill could handle all the local corn demands. It reverted to the Marquis of Bristol in 1866, again under the terms of a shorter lease on the land taken out in 1801, and changed hands several times after this. The mill actually stopped working in 1956, converted to a high-class conference centre still holding conferences today.

By the 1851 census, there are no Limmers found in Tuddenham (although two were buried there after this date).

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA



To my brother John Branwhite ;  
Brother John shall not before the death  
have obtained his certification under a  
confession of Bankruptcy lately awarded.

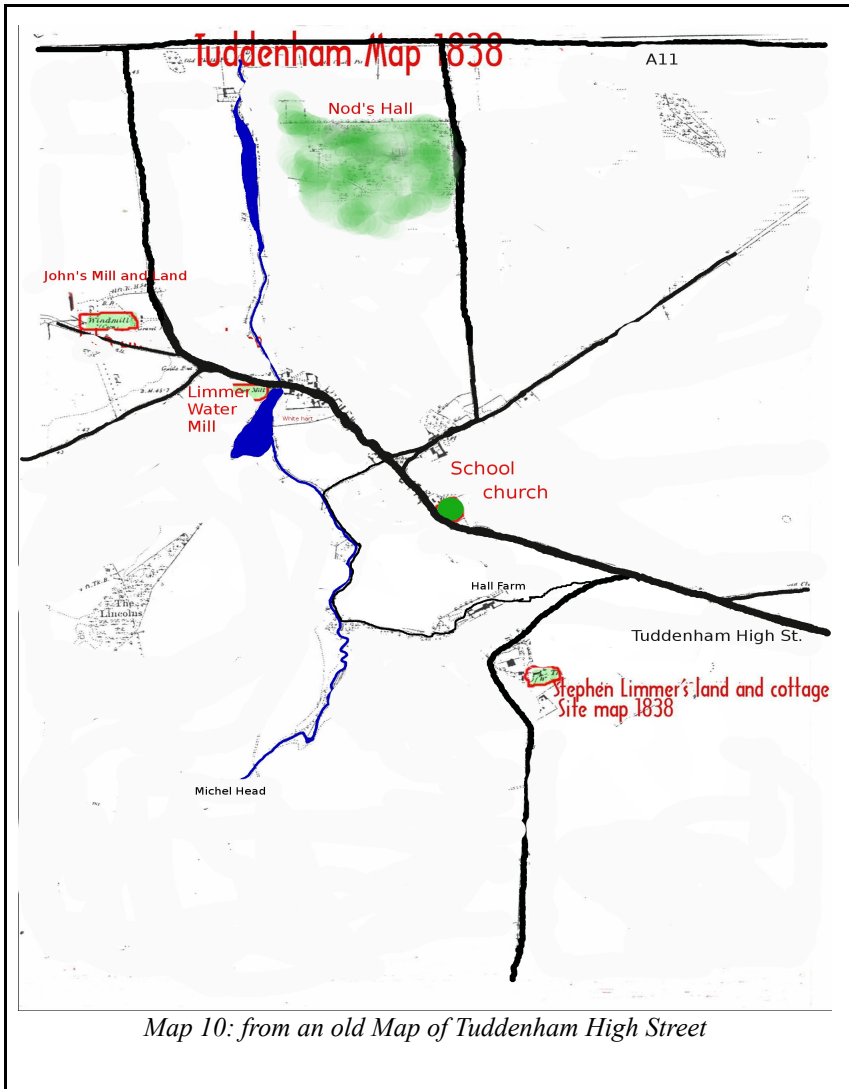
.....

## History of Limmers



*Figure 15: William Limmer's Smock Mill Tuddenham*

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA



## History of Limmers

### *History in Brief 1700 to 1800 AD*

With a house of commoners now representing a broader interest, social help is established for the poor and needy

The house of Lords becomes tougher with its laws and penalties. Deportation, pillory and death by hanging are seen as important deterrents protecting property and wealth.

The church resigns itself to diversity in non-conformity

Agricultural and clothing scenes change rapidly with the advent of mechanical machinery, thus workers saw a need to protect themselves by banding together in unions.

In the end, the declining need for workers is reversed by new industries and communications.

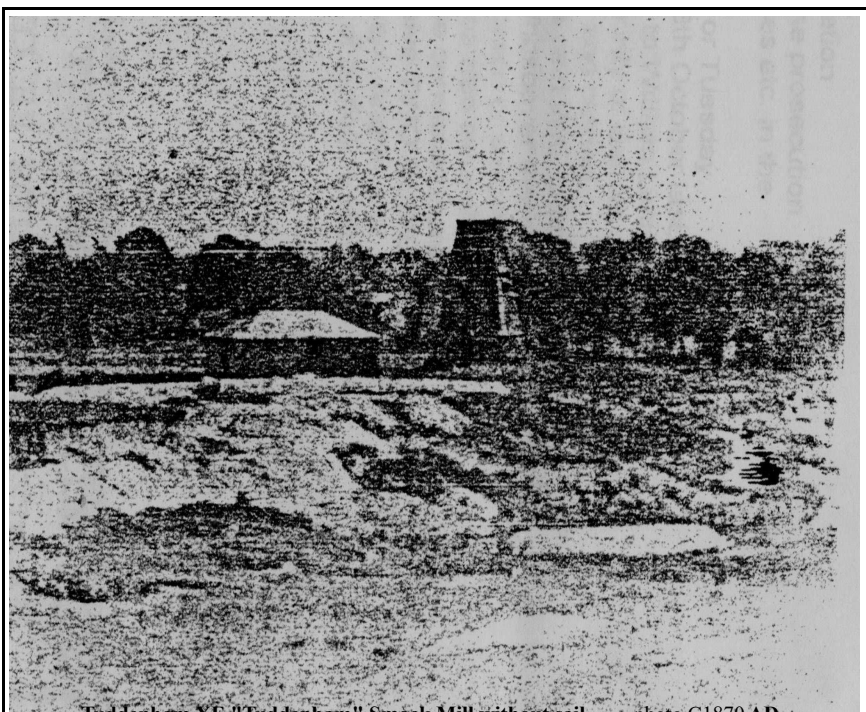
The stagecoach increased unity in England by transporting people, mail and newspapers throughout England and Wales. Both King and Religion begins to settle. The king's attention turns to wars abroad. The empire emerges Britain becomes great. All this required higher taxes.

'Religious tolerance' allowed Puritanism to divide into several denominations.

An engineering era rapidly changes the face of society with automation.

*History\_in\_Brief 4: 1700 to 1800*

## Chapter 16 THE TUDDENHAM ERA



*Figure 16: John's Smock Mill*

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 17 A PROSPEROUS GENERATION.

The four surviving children of John<sup>(1672.39)</sup> and Elizabeth prospered and married well. Esther<sup>(1701.42)</sup> was the first of the siblings to marry. She married John Nunn, a second Cousin<sup>248</sup>. The wedding took place Saturday 18th September 1723 in Chevington Church. They had a son John Nunn, born about 1724 John Nunn junior never married and was buried at Chevington 23rd July 1798.

John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>, first son of John<sup>(1672.39)</sup>, began by taking responsibility for a part of his father's clothes process by looking after the sheep.

In the will of John<sup>(1672.39)</sup>, we can see John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> only received 1s-0d. This, together with the fact that he is known as a yeoman on his marriage certificate, tells us John had previously received money to buy a smallholding, a good investment as it expanded the supply of spinning wool for father's clothing business.

John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> had been educated to quite a high standard before

Family\_Line\_46:

John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>

& Ann Chapman

& Alice Ridley

Ann<sup>(1731.46)</sup>

John<sup>(1732.46)</sup>

William<sup>(1733.46)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1739.46)</sup>

Jemima<sup>(1740.46)</sup>

& Mary Tetsall

Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1746.46)</sup>

Philip<sup>(1748.46)</sup>

Charles<sup>(1751.46)</sup>

Frances<sup>(1753.46)</sup>

From family line 42  
Page 152

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248 Elizabeth Sibbes had at least two sisters according to Zachary Catlin, Elizabeth's sister Sarah married a John Nunn (senior) and had three children – Mary, John(Junior) and Esther. John (Junior) may not have survived more than a year. John Nunn (senior) had a brother who also named his son John (second cousin). John (second cousin) married Esther<sup>(1701.42)</sup>.



## Chapter 17 A PROSPEROUS GENERATION.

becoming established as a yeoman<sup>249</sup> by the age of twenty-one. A yeoman might have been either a foreman in the employ of a gentleman farmer or, more probably, an independent farmer. John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> seems to have inherited his father's business sense. Later, with one eye on providing for his children's future, he leased another smallholding from the Marquis of Bristol just within the bounds of Tuddenham on which he later built the windmill for his son William<sup>(1733.46)</sup> 250.

John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> remained interested in the church taking the post of Churchwarden at Tuddenham. John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> married Ann Chapman. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 1728 at Chevington by Licence. Both John and Ann were 21 years old. Ann had lived at Westley four Miles from Chevington. Ann died fifteen months after their marriage and was buried at Herringswell on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1729.

It is not recorded how she died, it may have been in childbirth but there is no record of a baptism or burial around this date

John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> Limmer wasted no time in marrying again. By the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1730, he married Alice Ridley, a single woman, at Tuddenham St Mary. Marriage licence details declare: John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> and Alice Ridley lived in Herringswell.

The couple had six children. The first barely saw her first birthday.

- 1) *Ann<sup>(1731.46)</sup> Limmer was baptised July 1731 at Herringswell and buried in August 1732.*
- 2) *The second, John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> Limmer, born about 1732.*
- 3) *Third, William<sup>(1733.46)</sup> Limmer, baptised 12th September 1733.*
- 4) *Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> Limmer came fourth, (pardon the pun). He was baptised 6th November 1737.*

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249 The concept of a yeoman had moved on from previous definitions. John might have been a foreman in the employ of a gentleman farmer or, more probably, an independent farmer.

250 We looked at William in the last chapter.

## Chapter 17 A PROSPEROUS GENERATION.

### 5) *Fifth came Mary<sup>(1739.46)</sup> Limmer born about 1739.*

Alice Limmer died giving birth to Jemima, Alice was buried at Herringswell 4th June 1740 - the same day her daughter Jemima was baptised. Two years after Alice's death, John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> married again. This time John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> married Mary Tetsall 21<sup>st</sup> September 1742 at Norwich St Mary in the Marsh.

The facts we know of Mary begs the question, Why Norwich? There were Tetsall families in Norfolk at the time but they were in Ipswich some fifty miles away from Norwich. Mary's relations evidently centred around Westminster, London.<sup>251</sup>

At the time, a number of Limmers lived in New Buckingham<sup>252</sup>, just twelve miles or so from Norwich. New Buckingham was on the stagecoach route between Tuddenham and Norwich<sup>253</sup>. The administrative area of the cathedral, (then known as St Mary in the Marsh, but later known as Holy Trinity, and today known simply as Trinity).<sup>254</sup> It actually acted as the administration area to seven church parishes in and around Norwich.<sup>255</sup>

Parish register notes say that both John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> and Mary were from Tuddenham that meant they had both lived in the parish for at least six months before the wedding<sup>256</sup>. Was Mary the Children's nanny?

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251 See discussion on Stephen Limmer below

252 All the Bury-Saint-Edmunds family were living in New Buckingham at the time.

253 This route from Cambridge to Norwich followed closely what is now the A11 road having stage coach stops at Thetford and the junction at what is now Attleborough. While the fast stagecoach from Bury-Saint-Edmunds followed what are now the A143 and joining the A140. New Buckingham had a stagecoach stop so some routes clearly passed through.

254 Youngs, F., Local Administrative Units: Southern England (London: Royal Historical Society, 1979), p. 373

255 We might remember that Limmers were plentiful in New Buckinghamshire at this point. New Buckinghamshire was little more than twelve miles by road to Norwich.

256 Six months is the minimum time required before a person can be said to be resident.

## Chapter 17 A PROSPEROUS GENERATION.

Did she act as housekeeper when Alice died? As Yeoman, John would have been too busy to raise the children himself. He would have had to employ someone to help with 6 children all under 11 years of age. John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> may have arranged to have the ceremony at St Mary's because it was half way house between his relations in New Buckingham and Mary's relations in Ipswich. Being a key worker in the Parish Church of Tuddenham, he would have had built a relationship with Bishop who would have had to give permission for the couple to marry outside of heir parish.

We must put these questions aside for now as our story moves on.

After John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> married Mary Tetsall, they had a further six children<sup>257</sup>.

- 1) *Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> baptised 31<sup>st</sup> October 1743 Tuddenham.*
- 2) *Lucy<sup>(1746.46)</sup> baptised 29th September 1746 Tuddenham.*
- 3) *Philip<sup>(1748.46)</sup> baptised 28th November 1748 Tuddenham.*
- 4) *Charles<sup>(1751.46)</sup> baptised 7th November 1751 Tuddenham. Possibly died in 1833 age 81 at Coggleshall.*
- 5) *Frances<sup>(1753.54)</sup> baptised 25th February 1753<sup>258</sup> Tuddenham. Married Edward Lee 5th October 1775 St Mary Marylebone. Edward Lee died pre 1818 buried at Bocking with a Fanny Lee October 1833 age 79.*
- 6) *Jemima born 1740 Herringswell, Suffolk, England.*

Mary was buried 22nd August 1790 at Tuddenham. John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> lived a further five years as a widower until he was buried 10th July 1795 Tuddenham.

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257 Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010 ); also Suffolk Records Office.

258 The new Gregorian Calendar came into force 1 January 1753.

## Chapter 17 A PROSPEROUS GENERATION.

John's<sup>(1703.42)</sup> Brother Thomas<sup>(1705.42)</sup> lived less than four months, being baptised on the 7th October 1705 and Buried 7<sup>th</sup> February 1706 Chevington.

Sarah<sup>(1712.42)</sup> Limmer, the youngest daughter of John<sup>(1672.39)</sup>, married John Howlett in 1745 at Bury-Saint-Edmunds.

Family\_Line\_ 47:

**Sarah<sup>(1712.42)</sup>**

**& John Howlett**

John Howlett

Elizabeth Howlett

*From family line 42  
page 152*

John Howlett was the parish clerk at Tuddenham St. Mary for more than 20 years. They had two children:

- 1) *John Howlett baptised 9<sup>h</sup> August 1746 buried the same year 26<sup>h</sup> October 1746*
- 2) *Elizabeth Howlett lived for just five years being baptised 21<sup>st</sup> February 1747 and buried 15<sup>th</sup> February 1753<sup>259</sup>*

Sarah Howlett was buried 10<sup>th</sup> November 1764 Tuddenham John Howlett was buried 1<sup>st</sup> April 1767.

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259 This is five years not six as the old calendar should have finished on the 25 March 1753 but the new Gregorian calendar began on the 1 January 1753.

Chapter 17 A PROSPEROUS GENERATION.

Bury and Norwich Post 18 August 1802

**Auction notice**  
(By order of the sheriff),

ON 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1802

**A newly erected Smock windmill  
in complete repair with  
gears and appurtenances**

**late in the occupation of John  
Limmer including his 'feather bed,  
bureau, clock, chairs and other  
household furniture'**

**J. Whistler, auctioneer**

**Ipswich Journal 15 August 1801**

**Notice to Debtors and Creditors**

Whereas by an advert in the Bury Paper of Wednesday last dated Tuddenham July 27<sup>th</sup> 1801 desiring all persons to whom the late William Limmer of Tuddenham aforesaid indebted at the time of his decease, were requested to send account thereof to the persons therein named and all persons who stood indebted to the deceased were requested to pay the same to the executors before 29<sup>th</sup> September 1801

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

Family\_Line\_ 48:

**John**<sup>(1732.46)</sup>

**& Mary Prickett**

John<sup>(1760.48)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1762.48)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1764.48)</sup>

Stephen<sup>(1767.48)</sup>

*From family line 46  
page 172*

John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> son of John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>, returned to the clothing industry of his grandfather John<sup>(1762.39)</sup> in the capacity of a woolcomber. He started a seven-year apprentice in 1762. <sup>260</sup> Unfortunately by this time the trade was in decline. This did not affect John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> as much as others of his generation because he had his own smallholding on which he kept sheep and was therefore able to supply the wool ready combed to the cottage spinning industries in villages nearby.

John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> Limmer born 1732 and lived in Herringswell with his parents until his apprenticeship days began, then he lodged at Exning under an apprenticeship scheme. Here he met Mary Prickett and married her on 25th October 1759 at Herringswell. <sup>261</sup>

Although the marriage licence has John as a Woolcomber, the term Woolcomber had now changed. As applied to John, 'Woolcomber' meant that he processed the wool from his sheep from sheep shearing combing and bailing ready for spinning. This wool was then taken around the village where almost every home had a spinning wheel. Once spun by the womenfolk it was

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260 according to Inland Revenue Apprentices records

261 Marriage licence details: John Limmer (junior) 27 of Herringswell and Mary Prickett s.w. of Exning at Herringswell 24th October 1759



## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

sold to the clothiers who turned it into garments. The days when this arrangement allowed apprentices to learn the whole process of a clothier were receding while the days of specialisation were fast approaching.

Cotton imports, the spinning Jenny, and the worsted trade re-defined the term woolcomber. Soon after the birth of his second son Edward in 1862, woolcombing was reduced to the single operation in the a factory. The term later became replaced by the term 'Carding'<sup>262</sup>. By then, wool manufacturing had taken on a new look. New factory owners built separate workplaces from their homes and streamlined the process under a factory roof. Women no longer worked from home but were crowded together in noisy, hazardous buildings for twelve to fifteen hours a day.

Herringswell, was a down market village with many of its inhabitants on the poor register. John's<sup>(1732.46)</sup> piece of land was about half a mile from Herringswell Church, (and probably a mile further from his house outside the other side of the village).<sup>263....</sup>

After John<sup>(1732.46)</sup>, aged 27, married Mary Prickett widow. of Exning at Herringswell on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1759, they lived in Mary's home at Exning for the first year.

1) First born son: *John<sup>(1760.48)</sup> was baptised 27<sup>th</sup> September 1760 at Exning. Church.*

Maybe because of the increasing competition in the clothing

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262 See Interlude\_of\_Interest 8 page 190.

263 Piecing the story together : the land did not have a house on it and John was buried in Woodditton, six miles away. John may have had a shed on the land (as did many shepherds who had sheep on lands away from home), where he stayed during visits to check on his sheep. John was caught out by the extreme weather and could not get back home that night.

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

industry, they downsized to a cheaper property in Herringswell in 1761, the couple had their second son

- 2) Edward<sup>(1762.48)</sup> baptised 10<sup>th</sup> June 1762 Herringswell.
- 3) Mary<sup>(1764.48)</sup> baptised 4<sup>th</sup> April 1764 Herringswell.
- 4) Stephen<sup>(1767.48)</sup> baptised 25<sup>th</sup> July 1767 Herringswell, and buried in Herringswell 1768.

With the extra cash raised from the sale of the house, and a bit of assistance from John's<sup>(1732.46)</sup> father he bought a piece of land. His father John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>, was well known in and around Tuddenham.<sup>264</sup>

One night, during the extreme weather of 1799, John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> dutifully went from his house to his field of sheep when the weather caught him out. He could not get back home and neighbours found him in the fields where he died. John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> was buried in Woodditton on 5 Feb 1799 aged forty-one. The local paper holds a report of the inquest. It is not known when Mary died.

Norwich & Bury Post

7<sup>th</sup> February 1799

John Limmer, a The verdict of the  
married man, son of inquest was "*That he*  
John Limmer, *died by the visitation of*  
Tuddenham, aged 41, *God & the inclemency*  
found dead in the field. *of the weather*"

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<sup>264</sup> The newspaper cutting only refers to John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> as 'Son of' John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>.

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

William<sup>(1733.46)</sup> Younger brother of John<sup>(1732.46)</sup>, having chosen a career as a miller, married Diana About 1762, William. Diana was born in 1739 and was buried, aged 58, on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1797 Tuddenham<sup>265</sup>.

The story of William and Diana is also a sad one. William outlived all but three of his eleven children; Diana saw four of her children die before her own death.

Family\_Line\_49:

**William**<sup>(1733.46)</sup>

**&**

**Diana**

William<sup>(1763.49)</sup>

Prudence<sup>(1764.49)</sup>

Francis<sup>(1767.49)</sup>

Mary<sup>(1769.49)</sup>

George<sup>(1771.49)</sup>

Susan<sup>(1772.49)</sup>

William<sup>(1774.49)</sup>

John<sup>(1776.49)</sup>

Henry<sup>(1780.49)</sup>

Ann<sup>(1782.49)</sup>

Susanna<sup>(1784.49)</sup>

From family line 46

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- 1) William<sup>(1763.49)</sup> Limmer baptised 17<sup>th</sup> January 1763 Tuddenham just made it past his seventh birthday before he died. William was buried 19<sup>th</sup> February 1770 Tuddenham.
- 2) Prudence<sup>(1764.49)</sup> was baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1764 Tuddenham. Prudence<sup>(1764.49)</sup> married William Collin just about the same time Charles Wesley separated from the Church of England around 1784/5 AD.
- 3) Francis<sup>(1767.49)</sup>, baptised 5<sup>th</sup> January 1767 Tuddenham. Frances<sup>(1767.49)</sup> Lived only twenty-six years before being buried 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1793 at Tuddenham.
- 4) Mary<sup>(1769.49)</sup> baptised 18<sup>th</sup> May 1769 Tuddenham. In a year that Britain declared war with France Mary married John Reynolds 16th May 1793 at Tuddenham. The marriage was by licence because John was from Chippenham.
- 5) George<sup>(1771.49)</sup> baptised 11th July 1771 Tuddenham, Nearly managed his twentieth birthday died and was buried on the 14th April 1791 at Tuddenham.
- 6) Susan<sup>(1772.49)</sup> baptised, 12<sup>th</sup> November 1772 at Tuddenham managed eight years until 21<sup>st</sup> September 1780 Tuddenham.
- 7) William<sup>(1774.49)</sup> baptised 19<sup>th</sup> May 1774 Tuddenham. no other details can be found and he not mentioned in his father's will 1801.
- 8) John<sup>(1776.49)</sup> baptised 21<sup>st</sup> November 1776 Tuddenham. Died 1812 Tuddenham, and was buried in Tuddenham Grave yard next to his father on 15<sup>th</sup> April. John lived just thirty-six years.

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265 Details of this family organized by Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010 ); also Suffolk Records Office

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

- 9) Henry<sup>(1780.49)</sup> baptised 11<sup>th</sup> May 1780 Tuddenham died twenty years later being buried 7<sup>th</sup> August 1800 Tuddenham.
- 10) Ann<sup>(1782.49)</sup> baptised 1<sup>st</sup> August 1782 Tuddenham She married John Branwhite 25<sup>th</sup> February 1801 Tuddenham. John was from Lavenham. The story of Ann and John Branwhite continues in Family\_Line\_60 on page 201.
- 11) Susanna<sup>(1784.49)</sup> baptised 9<sup>th</sup> August 1784 barely saw seventeen years of life before dying at Tuddenham, in 1801.

William<sup>(1733.46)</sup> had died the same year (1801), at Tuddenham St Mary in Suffolk aged 68. In his will he left his brother Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> twenty pounds, to be paid by his executors within one year of his death. If Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> did receive this £20 in 1802 he did not declare it to the poorhouse overseers, as he should.

He may have invested this money, to give his wife Mary an income after his death. Mary does not appear to have received parish relief from the period after Edward's death until 1822.

Family\_Line\_50:  
**Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup>**  
**&**  
**Mary Caldecott**

Sarah<sup>(1772.50)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1774.50)</sup>

Ann<sup>(1777.50)</sup>

John<sup>(1779.50)</sup>

George<sup>(1783.50)</sup>

William<sup>(1786.50)</sup>

From family line 46  
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Another sad story is Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup>, the middle child of John<sup>(1703.42)</sup>, who married Mary Caldecott 7th August 1771 in Barrow by licence.

Edward was 34 years old and also a woolcomber from Tuddenham, but not as shrewd as his brother John<sup>(1732.46)</sup>. He travelled a number of roads before dying 29<sup>th</sup> March. 1803. Mary seems to have had a longer life, born in Norton in 1742, five years younger than Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup>, she married at the age of twenty-nine and lived to a ripe age of eighty-eight.

The marriage was at Barrow by licence suggesting Edward was only

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

lodging in Barrow while working in a newly built textile factory<sup>266</sup>. Edward was listed as a woolcomber from Tuddenham. Mary was born Norton C1747 and moved to Barrow with her family while in her childhood years. Barrow in the seventeen-nineties was a fast growing village of mainly lower working class folk,<sup>267</sup> just ripe for the new textile factory to spring up.

Edward's character can be seen in his life style. His life was far from easy but he appears to remain faithful to his family and resolute to life throughout his adverse circumstances. We might ask why Edward ended in a factory, essentially as a carder and did not join the rest of his family in a branching out in business?

Edward shares many traits in common with a learning difficulty. Edward would have been just four years old when his mother died and five years old when a stepmother moved in to the home. Was there a character clash between his stepmother and himself? He shows rebellious signs. Later he displays an inability to handle money – perhaps because he could not see the future. one of Edward's children appears to inherit learning difficulties as well. Edward's<sup>(1737.46)</sup> lack of interest, (or was it inability), in providing his children with a good education is in marked contrast to the rest of the family. It may have disadvantaged his descendants enhancing this trait in the family line. Edward clearly had misfortunes in his life but there is little evidence of the family helping out which suggests he was a black sheep in the family.

It looks as though Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> went it alone before his marriage. Edward's move took him to Barrow where he became a

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266 Barrow was expanding rapidly because the new factory type industry was taking over from the old family cottage industry.

267 Suffolk Local History society pamphlet.

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

woolcomber in a clothing factory. Was Mary a spinner at the mill where Edward became a woolcomber, I wonder? Having to get married quickly, he appears to have moved in with his in-laws. Sarah<sup>(1772.50)</sup>, his first daughter was born here just five months after the wedding.

The Bishop's Transcript records Sarah<sup>(1772.50)</sup> Limmer baptised 12th January 1772 Barrow. She lived to be seventy-one years, remaining a spinster in both senses of the word, having moved with her father to Colchester before dying there in 1843.

Edward and Mary set up home on their own Tuddenham in 1773, but were only there for four years before moving on again, this time to Colchester in Essex. During their time at Tuddenham three children were born.

The year of the general woolcomber revolt of 1791, found Edward, fifty-two years old, among many woolcombers fighting for a job. Numerous woolcombers were declared bankrupt in this very short period. The new clothing trade took on a smaller number of spinners, weavers and woolcombers during 1790 to 1795<sup>268</sup>. Michael Boyle's Silk and ribbon factory in Colchester was one such company. Michael Boyle took advantage of the rapid rise in silk, velvet and bombazine clothes after the Napoleonic war.

By 1797, things were bad. Edward could no longer support his family and they surrendered themselves for outdoor<sup>269</sup> poor relief

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268 A History of the County of Essex: Volume 9

269 Outdoor poor relief was for people who had accommodation (mainly rented).

To get onto this list required investigation into all means of income. Once on this list Edward and his family remain there for the rest of their lives. It was usual to send any relatives out to work before paying anything to outdoor poor. From this we can deduce that Edward's wife and children were poor in health

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

at Wivenhoe. In common with so many woolcombers who found themselves in factories, bugs, dust, and new chemical processes caused long term health problems to lungs and immune systems. Edward seems to have suffered for at least six years before his death. After Christmas in 1802, Edward became ill once again and gradually worsened until he died March 29<sup>th</sup> 1803. The poor fund supported Edward, and Mary who nursed him, paying for his laying out, shroud and coffin. After the funeral service on 3rd April 1803 Wivenhoe (Essex) aged 65, mourners and bearers "*commiserated with beer at the local inn*".<sup>270</sup>

Mary, Edward's wife, worked to support herself until September 1820, when she became too old and ill to work, remaining on regular poor support until she died in 1830. Mary was buried 25<sup>th</sup> July 1830 Mary's age is given as 88 in the parish register.

Family\_Line\_52:  
**Mary**<sup>(1739.46)</sup>  
  
&  
**William Potter**  
  
From family line 46  
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Mary<sup>(1739.46)</sup>, Edward's sister, had a much less tragic life. She married William Potter 19th March 1761 at Tuddenham. William was from Denham. The Potter family, long established in Denham, lived in Denham High House situated next to William<sup>(1584.23)</sup> Limmer's land at the North of Hargrave. The name Potter grew out of the trade. Denham, like Hargrave was mainly clay soil and made good material for firing into vessels. Mary seems to have lived a long and prosperous life with William. The links with the Limmer family were still held by this couple, Thomas Lymer of

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as well. They did occasional work but from poorhouse records it seems Mary's health deteriorated fast also.

270 These details can be seen in the accounts of the Wivenhoe poor accounts see page 189

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

Family\_Line\_ 51:

**Jemima**<sup>(1740.46)</sup>

**&**

**John Bonnett**

Lucy Bonnett<sup>(1775.52)</sup>

James Bonnett<sup>(1777.52)</sup>

William Bonnett<sup>(1779.52)</sup>

William Bonnett<sup>(1784.52)</sup>

*From family line 46  
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Potton was a witness to the will of William Potter.

Jemima<sup>(1740.46)</sup>, Mary's sister, married John Bonnett (widower) 17<sup>th</sup> August 1767 Tuddenham. as she grew up it must have dawned on her that her mother died giving birth to her. This could have given her a disposition of reluctance because Jemima was twenty-seven years old when she married and thirty-five when she had her first child – Lucy<sup>(1775.52)</sup> baptised 29<sup>th</sup> January 1775 Tuddenham. The Bonnetts lived in a house at the centre of Tuddenham village when

James Bonnett<sup>(1777.52)</sup> was born and baptised 9<sup>th</sup> February 1777 Tuddenham.

William Bonnett<sup>(1779.52)</sup> baptised 12<sup>th</sup> September 1779 Tuddenham died that same year.

The next boy born in May 1784 was named after him. William Bonnett<sup>(1784.10)</sup> baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1784 also died at birth .

Sadly, history repeated itself. Just as Jemima's mother died giving birth so Jemima died giving birth. Both mother and child were buried together on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1784 Tuddenham. Jemima was just forty-four.



## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

### *Interlude of Interest 7: Poor Payments Part 1*

<u>Year</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>reason</u>
1798	Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	3	3	0	Paid Captain Baker 3/4 year's rent for George Limmer and Mary Robinson
1798	Jan	0	6		Paid Limmer for carriage... 6d
1798	Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	3	0		Paid Limmer for bringing a parcel from Colchester 3-0d
1798	Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	10	0		Received of Captain Baker for Limmer 10-0d
1799	Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	1	0		Paid Mr Limmer for bringing parcels from Colchester
1799	Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	3	0		Relieved Limmer ill 3-0d
1799	Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec weekly	3	0		Relieved Limmer ill
1800	Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	2	6		Old Limmer
1800	Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	3	0		Relieved Limmer 3-0d weekly
1803	Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	3	0		Limmer extra 3-0d
1803	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	3	0		Relieved Limmer ill extra 3-0d
1803	Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	3	0		Relieved Limmer ill extra 3-0d
1803	Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	3	0		Limmer and wife extra 3-0d
1803	Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	5	0		Relieved Limmer ill extra 5-0d
1803	Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	5	0		Limmer and wife extra
1803	Mar 25 <sup>th</sup>	5	0		Limmer and wife extra
1803	Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	4	0		Relieved the widow Limmer extra 4-0d
1803	Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	3	0		Paid Richard's wife for laying Limmer out 3-0d

## Chapter 18 A SAD GENERATION

### Interlude of Interest 8: Woolcombers

To begin with, Woolcombing was a term for the whole process from shearing sheep, washing the wool in lime free water to rid it of lice and dirt. Then, pegging it to a board and combing the matted strands with a teasel (*known as carding*), to pull them into line so it could be wound around a stick like Candy-floss. John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> enjoyed the prestige of this early definition.

Once in this state the wool was handed to a spinner (or spinster as they were known, usually being the unmarried daughters of the household).

A fully-fledged woolcomber in seventeen-thirty-nine enjoyed the high wages. The going rate at this time was between 16s /0d and 20s /0d a week. A skilled spinner might earn just 3s-6d per week on piecework. A skilled woolcomber would keep up with three spinners while eight spinners would be needed to keep up with one loom

In seventeen-fifty-two, woolcombers came out on strike because their wages were being reduced. They struck until their bosses dismissed them.

In seventeen- fifty-seven, the woollen industry masters petitioned parliament to reduce the wages in the industry again. By then the woolcomber trade simply consisted of the one process of pegging and combing the wool. By now, the teasels were stuck to a piece of wood to form a more lasting comb. Edward<sup>(1762.48)</sup>, is called a woolcomber under this simpler definition.

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

**A**fter the death of Alice (nee Ridley) the fortunes of the family of John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> divided. The Tetsall family in London took a keen interest in their grandchildren, not that I suppose they neglected the children of John and Alice, but the fortunes of the Tetsalls followed their first grandson Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> son of John and Mary.

By the time Stephen was thirty-five, he had bought a wine dealers business in Conduit Street, London.<sup>271</sup> The large frontage shop adjoined the entrance to rather grand block apartments curving round the corner. Situated less than half a mile from Hyde Park and a few hundred metres from Berkley square and Hanover Square, this was the residence of the painter John Copley<sup>272</sup>, (who still lived and worked above the shop when Stephen bought it)<sup>273</sup>. Later, it was turned into the famous, (perhaps infamous), Limmer Hotel<sup>274</sup>. How did Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> came to these surroundings? James Tetsall kept the Hertford Arms, public house, at 68 Grosvenor Street,<sup>275</sup> one block away from Conduit Street and Hanover Square. Margaret, William, and Thomas Tetsall also lived

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271 Tuddenham Parish register notes, & 1814 census. Also, Public Records Office papers - deeds and licences 1800, 4- Feb. 1804, & 1810 AD.

272 John Singleton Copley(1738– 1815) was an American painter, born presumably in Boston, Massachusetts and a son of Richard and Mary Singleton Copley, both Irish.

273 The fascination of London. 1904.

274 See Item of interest Limmer Hotel page 204.

275 James Tetsall was a witness in an Old Bailey theft case. If I read the transcript correctly he may not have been entirely innocent himself as he brought some stolen sash windows from the thief. ‘ Old Bailey Trials :1800 - 1820 : H. Buckler : Booth’.

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

within a few blocks of the Square. John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> and Mary would have brought the children to visit mother's relations in London.

During this period<sup>276</sup> of history, visits to relations in London were important for up and coming of the more affluent sections of society, not only for the socialising but also matchmaking teenage grandchildren. Stephen's attraction to Elizabeth Deares no doubt began here. The Deares family who lived local to the Tetsals, had connections with the military and may have helped Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> and friend William Ladbrook,<sup>277</sup> (a breeches maker from New Bond street), to gain several contracts with one – Mr. Montagu Henry. The contract was to supply the British Navy with breeches, rum and beer between 1800 and 1815.<sup>278</sup>

The list of Stephen's neighbours is also impressive. Among these are the Duke of Roxburgh, The Earl of Harewood, Sir Francis Dashwood and Lord Le Despencer. Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> received a portion of estates of Sir George Strickland, (another Military man), on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1810<sup>279</sup> This then, was the society Stephen's

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276 Francis, Stephens younger sister also seems to have celebrated her 'coming out' years in London as she also married here.

277 Limmer Hotel may have been the start of Ladbrooks betting shops, they certainly took bets there

278 William Ladbrook and Stephen Limmer of conduit street wine dealer his assignee 1806 : 27 march *Plymouth and west district records office* 69/m/3/98.

William Ladbrook breeches maker new bond street and Stephen Limmer of conduit street wine dealer 1804 10 Feb *Plymouth and west district records office* 69/m/3/95.

Contract between Mr Montagu Henry customs house London Lieutenant navy and William Ladbrook breeches maker new bond street and Stephen Limmer of conduit street wine dealer : *Plymouth and west district records office* 69/m/3/98.

279 East riding of Yorkshire records office ddgd/901.

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE



*Figure 17: Grosvenor Street Houses*

children met whenever they went 'up to London'.<sup>280</sup>

Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> Limmer married Elizabeth Deares 1776 at St Georges Hanover Square. The Deares family, lived in Hanover Square. Hanover Square, built in 1717 mainly for military officers belonging to the Whig party.<sup>281</sup> surrounded a small park exclusively for residents. Not many of these five story tenements remain now but one, pictured here, shows some grandeur of the local area.

The square resided in the parish of St George's, just one block from the Deares Apartments. Elizabeth's Mother would have had the time of her life planning the wedding in this grand Georgian Church. She would have to impress the noble persons who attended such a church. Sir Frederick Handel attended here and no doubt played the grand gold rolled organ. Who knows if Stephen or Elizabeth had sat through a recital or two, given by the great man in their early

childhood?<sup>282</sup> To be a steward or church warden in this grand

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280 London I.G.I.

281 It was generally said of Wiggs at the time, that they were 'unpatriotic, unreliable and irreligious land owners with little more to do than lounge in parliament' Small wonder then that St George's church could be built on such a grand style with parliamentary approval and public money.

282 George Fredric Handel died 17 years before the wedding of Stephen and Elizabeth.

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

Church you would need to be titled by the realm. St George's, attended by many of London's '*Elite*', has an impressive list of deacons and officers. If I judge Stephen's character correctly, this would have intimidated him; I think he would feel quiet uncomfortable in such an elite congregation.

Quite why this family drove by<sup>283</sup> four churches to go to a church in Marylebone for the baptism of their children remains a question. Those wishing to be named among society would have not done so. Society would have revolved around St James or Westminster in the opposite direction and, of course, St George's Hanover Square.

St. Mary's was a small, rather plain church serving a parish of 5000 people when Stephen joined it. By 1800 AD the population of the parish was heading for sixty-four-thousand. Stephen may well have been on the Parochial Church Council when it decided to build a new church. However, with the frustration in finding a new site, the church eventually extended the existing church building, continuing its work among the poor of the parish with a mission hall on the other end of the large parish.

Stephen and Elizabeth seem to have become active in the church of St. Mary Le-bone which was quite different in nature to St. George's.

The contrast with St George's and St Mary's can be seen from the writings of Charles Dickens who was associated with St Mary's. His descriptions of Victorian society surely came from the contrast of these two parishes so close together and yet so diverse in Character. Soon after Stephen's death, 'the Crown' developed Regents Park where a Grand new church was built as the Parish church leaving the old church as a mission to continue -and thus

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<sup>283</sup> in horse and carriage of course.

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

effectively distancing its upper society from a work amongst the poor of the parish.

Family\_Line\_53:

**Stephen**<sup>(1743.46)</sup>

**&**

**Elizabeth Deares:**

Rebecca<sup>(1777.53)</sup>

Sophia<sup>(1778.53)</sup>

Benjamin<sup>(1780.53)</sup>

Reuben<sup>(1780.53)</sup>

Matilda<sup>(1781.53)</sup>

Matilda<sup>(1782.53)</sup>

Matilda<sup>(1784.53)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1783.53)</sup>

Matilda<sup>(1786.53)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1789.53)</sup>

From family line 46  
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I have the feeling that Stephen would have shivered a little had he seen the change. Here is a man with life choices. By circumstance he could have mixed exclusively with earls, barons and knights, instead, he chooses a humble church in which to raise his children. Perhaps he could not distance himself from his half brother Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup>. I cannot tell. While Edward's full brother John<sup>(1732.46)</sup> helped Edward financially where he could, there is no record of Stephen helping Edward out in his difficulties. Edward did not have all the life choices his brother had. As natural descendant of the Tetsal family with a doting grandmother, Stephen was given advantages Edward's natural grandmother could never give. However, in those advantages, Stephen demonstrates a pleasant, caring character that always remembered his roots. Any animosity between Stephen and Edward seems to have been built up from Edward's part rather than Stephen's.

Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> owned and kept the '*house in the country*', (Tuddenham). Until his parents died, Stephen spent most of his time in London with his family, Elizabeth died in London but was buried 9th May 1807 at Tuddenham. On the death of Elizabeth in 1807 Stephen returned to Tuddenham as his main residence and spent little time in London. He also was buried in Tuddenham. Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> died ten years later on 11th June 1817 being buried 19th June 1817.



## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

The children of Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup> <sup>284</sup> and Elizabeth Deares:

- 1) *Rebecca baptised 23rd March 1777 Marylebone St Mary.*
- 2) *Sophia, (who later married William Hassell) <sup>285</sup>, was baptised 6th July 1778 Marylebone St Mary. Sophie's husband William died pre 1817. (They had least one son - Charles Stephen Hassell).*
- 3) *Benjamin baptised 5th March 1780 Marylebone St Mary, and buried age five on 23rd January 1785 at Tuddenham.*
- 4) *Reuben baptised 5th March 1780 Marylebone-St-Mary.*

Tragically four daughters born after Reuben died at birth

- 5) *Matilda born July 1781 Marylebone died Aug 1781 Marylebone*
- 6) *Matilda born July 1782 Marylebone died July 1782 Marylebone*
- 7) *Matilda born August 1784 Marylebone died August 1784 Marylebone*
- 8) *Elizabeth born 1783*
- 9) *Matilda born 1786 St Georges Hanover Sq died Oct 1859 London later married Roylance Child,*
- 10) *Elizabeth born 1789 London later married William Beattie,*

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284 Details of this family organized by Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010) ; also Suffolk Records Office.

285 Marriage Settlement documents dated 1800: Newcastle under Lymme records office D239/M3782.

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

Family\_Line\_ 54:

**Frances<sup>(1753.54)</sup>**

**&**

**Edward Lee**

Frances<sup>(1753.54)</sup>

*From family line 46  
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Frances<sup>(1753.54)</sup>, younger sister of Stephen, and youngest child of John<sup>(1703.42)</sup> and Mary, had married into the Lee family in St Mary Marylebone the year before Stephen married in St George's. No doubt they would have met each Sunday at the church.

Frances<sup>(1753.54)</sup> was baptised 25<sup>th</sup> February 1753 Tuddenham. Like her brother Stephen before her, Frances visits her mother's relations in London during her teenage years – or so it would seem.

Having met Edward Lee, they married 5<sup>th</sup> October 1775 St Mary Marylebone. While they lived close to Stephen for the first part of their married life, The rapid expansion of Marylebone encouraged the Lees to move out of London. Edward Lee and Frances, (who became known as 'Fanny' to her friends), moved to Bocking where Edward died pre 1818. Frances lived another 15 years to reach 79, before being buried with her husband, as 'Fanny' Lee October 1833. Lucy<sup>(1746.46)</sup>, The younger sister of Stephen<sup>(1743.46)</sup>, baptised 29th September 1746 Tuddenham, married James Deaves 4th June 1772, at Tuddenham by licence. James was a local man aged 26 years,

Family\_Line\_ 55:

**Lucy<sup>(1746.46)</sup>**

**&**

**James Deaves**

*From family line 46  
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They were only married for eighteen years when James died. James died 28th November 1790 buried Tuddenham. Lucy's death is recorded as Lucy Deaves suggests she was independent and had an allowance from her father's estate. Lucy outlived her husband by forty-one years, being

buried on 28th August 1831 in Tuddenham. Her income seems to have been sufficient for her to remain a widow and not have to remarry or apply for poor help as many widows of her time needed to do.

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

Family\_Line\_ 56:

**Philip<sup>(1748.46)</sup>**  
&  
**Jane Norman**

Frances<sup>(1780.56)</sup>

Stephen<sup>(1784.56)</sup>

William<sup>(1791.56)</sup>

Charles<sup>(1793.56)</sup>

John<sup>(1795.56)</sup>

From family line 46  
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Philip<sup>(1748.46)</sup> Stephen's younger brother, married Jane Norman 29th October 1778 Herringswell by licence when they were both aged thirty. This happy couple celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary in 1828 – the year St. Katherine's dock was opened to accommodate the rising trade in the commonwealth. They were married for fifty-four years before Jane, born 1748 was buried 22nd December 1832 in Tuddenham at the age of eighty-four. Philip lived a further twelve years before being buried with his wife 11th April 1844 Tuddenham at the grand age of ninety-six.

Children of Philip<sup>(1748.46)</sup> and Jane <sup>286</sup>:

- 1) *Frances<sup>(1780.56)</sup> baptised 15th January 1780 Herringswell. She married Simon Place 9th October 1801 Tuddenham by licence. Simon from Eriswell. died within two years of the marriage. Frances then married John Childerstone.*
- 2) *Stephen<sup>(1784.56)</sup> baptised 1784 Tuddenham St Mary died 1853 Tuddenham St Mary he married Norman, Frances*
- 3) *William, born 1791 Tuddenham St Mary died 1842 Tuddenham st Mary*
- 4) *John, born 1795 Tuddenham St Mary*

Family\_Line\_ 57:

**John<sup>(1779.50)</sup>**

From family line 50  
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John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> was the fourth sibling of Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> and Mary. Born 1779 at Tuddenham St Mary his baptism was on 10 Oct 1779. He died 1806

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286 Details of this family organized by Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010) ; also Suffolk Records Office.

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

Family\_Line\_ 58:

**John<sup>(1760.48)</sup>**

**&**

**Ann Cock**

John<sup>(1789.58)</sup>

Mary Ann<sup>(1791.58)</sup>

Mary Ann<sup>(1796.58)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1798.58)</sup>

*From family line 48*

*Page 180*

John<sup>(1760.48)</sup> married Ann Cock around 1788 AD, possibly in Cambridgeshire.

Children of John<sup>(1760.48)</sup> and Ann Cock.

- 1) John<sup>(1789.58)</sup> baptised 12th July 1789 Woodditton.
- 2) Mary Ann<sup>(1791.58)</sup> baptised 14th August 1791 and buried 26th Jan 1792 Woodditton.
- 3) Mary Ann<sup>(1796.58)</sup> baptised 20th Feb 1796 and buried 25th Feb 1796 Woodditton.
- 4) Edward<sup>(1798.58)</sup> baptised 10<sup>th</sup> June 1762 Herringswell.

John<sup>(1789.58)</sup>, (Son of John<sup>(1760.48)</sup> and Ann), married Elizabeth Smith on the 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 1814 Cowlinge. After the wedding, the couple set out to buy a house near Elizabeth's Parents in Wickhambrook. They managed to move in time for their first child Ann<sup>(1819.59)</sup> baptised 25<sup>th</sup> April 1819 at Wickhambrook church.

Ann<sup>(1819.59)</sup> married James Crick 25<sup>th</sup> at the age of eighteen in November 1837 at Cowlinge.

Ann's younger Brother John<sup>(1820.59)</sup> was baptised 7<sup>th</sup> June 1820 at Wickhambrook. Susan<sup>(1825.59)</sup> was baptised 6<sup>th</sup> July 1825 Wickhambrook. Elizabeth/ Betsy<sup>(1827.59)</sup> baptised 15<sup>th</sup> July 1827 in Wickhambrook church but did not live to see her twenty-second birthday. She was buried 14<sup>th</sup> June 1850 at Cowlinge.

Family\_Line\_ 59:

**John<sup>(1789.58)</sup>**

**&**

**Elizabeth Smith**

Ann<sup>(1819.59)</sup>

John<sup>(1820.59)</sup>

Susan<sup>(1825.59)</sup>

Betsy<sup>(1827.59)</sup>

Nehemiah<sup>(1831.59)</sup>

*From family line 58*

*Page 200*

Elizabeth's parents - the Smith family, moved to Cowlinge, (some

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

fifty miles away), John and Elizabeth followed them around 1810. Nehemiah<sup>(1831.59)</sup> baptised 30th June 1831 Wickhambrook, was also buried young on 1st Oct 1848 at Cowlinge, Aged 21. Finally, John<sup>(1789.58)</sup> died at Cowlinge 1860 age 71 and Elizabeth died at Cowlinge, being buried 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 1874.

Family_Line_ 60: <b>Ann</b> <sup>(1782.49)</sup>  <b>John Branwhite</b>  <i>from family line 49</i> <i>Page 183</i>
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Having been introduced to the Branwhites earlier, we now pick up their story. Ann<sup>(1782.49)</sup> Limmer married John Branwhite 25<sup>th</sup> February 1801 Tuddenham. John was from Lavenham. The Branwhite family owned most of Lavenham. John's uncle Thomas was an unmarried shoemaker, living in the centre of the village. When he died in 1773, his wealth was left to his nephews and nieces, who were the children of John Branwhite and Ann<sup>(1782.49)</sup>.

John's sister Ann received a tenement in the market place with its yards gardens and outhouses, including the shoemaking concern, from which she was to pay Sarah (John's second sister), thirty pounds annually.

Besides a second tenement in the market square, John inherited several other properties and sums of monies around two-hundred-and-fifty pounds.

John Branwhite also inherited, from his father on his death in 1777, a linen drapery business. His sisters, *'having refused to take upon themselves'* any part in the running of the concern, were left sums of money from other sources.

It seems, from several sources, that the Branwhites were aspiring to the league of gentlemen. Uncle Thomas Branwhite, "a

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

*gentleman*”, had a pig stolen and killed on his premises according to local assizes. Ann Branwhite (John’s sister), Married ‘*a gentleman from Lavenham*’, (one of the well established Prentice family).

John seemed to have a mean streak in him when it came to possessions. he has no problem in bringing a court case on John Clark for stealing 13 handkerchiefs.



The latest of three churches know as St Mary Le-Bone built soon after the death of Steven

*Figure 18: St Mary Le-Bone*

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

## Chapter 19 BERKLEY SQUARE

### *Interlude\_of\_Interest 9: Limmer Hotel*

Situated on the corner of George Street and Conduit road, the hotel was the talk of sporting gentlemen and cultural groups. Among those that met monthly at the hotel were *the boxing club, the turf sports association*, a literary publishing group, (which was noted everywhere from Punch to Parliament, and sported writers like William Blake *Limmer's Hotel. April, 1847*). The British Ornithologists' Union, the Oxford and Cambridge Medical Graduates convention, were among many others

It was a place for the gentleman (or the bogus gentleman). One such, among those conducting money lending on the premises and actually claiming to live at the hotel, Paid £800.00 cash for three bonds worth £1500.00 then conveniently lost one at redemption time. He found himself in court.

The head waiter named John Collins created a new drink that is named after him today Mimicking the literary gentlemen he composed this limerick

*'My name is John Collins, head waiter at Limmer's,  
Corner of Conduit Street, Hanover Square,  
My chief occupation is filling brimmers  
For all the young gentlemen frequenters there.'*

Advertised as “Good plain English Cooking” and “good evening resort for Corinthians”, The place was not for the faint hearted. one gentleman found a Mouse in his soup and was simply told ' Don't be afraid sir it is a real mouse'. He took his coat and left.

Captain Dashmore, after fighting a dual in the nearby park, shot his opponent in his left arm, shook his right hand and promptly conveyed him to Limmer hotel to have the lead shot removed.

A stamp featuring Limmer Hotel was issued in 1822



**History in brief: 1800- 1850**

**This period saw a mixture of progress and regress as parliament became a battleground for control of the plebiscite.**

**Having passed reforms to help the poor and vulnerable with such laws as 'the coercion law', the 'antislavery bill', 'uniform weights and measures act' and the introduction of the safety lamp, these some of these and many other were repealed as soon as the next government took over. Such was the road to greater democracy.**

**Women began to see the fruit of long and hard campaigns for recognition in several ways, although they did not get the vote until 1928**

**The coming of trains, shorter working days and bank holidays allow people to explore the land in which they were born.**

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

Lymmers may have been in Norfolk from around 1392.<sup>287</sup> Looking at a map of progression however, it would seem more likely they spread gradually upwards from Suffolk, having a common heritage with the families we have already discussed.

According to Glyn James in his research into Suffolk Pewterers<sup>288</sup>, The Lymmer family practised the craft of pewtering for well over 100 years in Ipswich.

It appears our John Lymmer<sup>(1545.18)</sup> may have been apprenticed to uncle Christopher<sup>(1514.7)</sup> Lymmer, pewterer of the parish of St Stephen's, who, besides being elected to the Twenty-Four and the office of Chamberlain, become Bailiff in 1543 .

John's brother, Robert Lymmer<sup>(1556.28)</sup>, (*'Robert the Rogue' I ought to call him*)- who you may remember was the bailiff and portman, implicated in smuggling sailcloth), had property at the end of St Stephen's Lane at the time, One day went to Harlestone market under the alias of Robert Lymbard. It was there he had *'small amounts of substandard wares ...'seized* .<sup>289</sup> The writer assumes Robert Lymmer was a pewterer but from our other research we know him to be a merchant handling any goods from sail cloth to pewter.

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287 William Lemmer/Limmer St. Clare 1392: Chippeleye : Norfolk Inquisitions ref: 83 Haydon St Clare ; Ipswich records: Norfolk Historical Aids. This is a reference to property and it may not be that William was living there but receiving benefits from a will.

288 Glyn James Volume XLI, Part 1 Suffolk Pewterers

289 *'Seized at Harlestone of Robert Lymbard (Lymmer) of Ipswich one platter, one dish, one saucer and 7lbs of hollow-ware and chamber pots.*

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

By 1540 Lymmers moving to Norfolk from Suffolk. Include Rebecca<sup>(1507.7)</sup> Lymmer who had moved to Trowse Milgate where she met and married Enoch Cleare at Saint Ethedred, Norwich,<sup>290</sup> Robert<sup>(1556.28)</sup> and his sister Elizabeth<sup>(1557.28)</sup>, who may well have been born in Buckinghamshire and moved up as part of the family at the time of monastery Devolution<sup>291</sup>.

After 1622 AD, three names begin to appear regularly in Norfolk. I call them the William, Samuel and John lines. These may well have a common ancestor in William<sup>(1622.U)</sup> who was living in Saint Julian, Norwich<sup>292</sup>. William Married in 1647, and within a generation we find William the blacksmith, John<sup>(1648.U)</sup> living in Yarmouth and working as “*Clerk to Clerk of Acts Royal Navy Officer*”,<sup>293</sup> and Samuel<sup>(1650.U)</sup> Living in Gorleston and Great Yarmouth.<sup>294</sup>

Descendant of William<sup>(1647.U)</sup>, William<sup>(1696.U)</sup> is first found living with his widowed mother in Barningham in 1714. William<sup>(1696.U)</sup> Married around 1716.

Descendants in the Samuel<sup>(1650.U)</sup> line bring us to Samuel<sup>(1790.U)</sup>, great grandson of Samuel<sup>(1720.U)</sup>, (who grew up in Gorsleston Norfolk), and his wife Honor. He and Honor moved to Erpinham some time before 1805. Most of the descendants of Samuel<sup>(1720.U)</sup> live in Gorsleston and Yarmouth - including one in Gorleston in 1865<sup>295</sup>,

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290 St Etheldred Parish Register.

291 I am led to this conclusion from general reading of the following and not from any one source: Kew family records, Ipswich Borough Historical Archives Vol 43, Notes and Queries connected with the counties of Suffolk Norfolk Vol 2

292 International Genealogical Index / BI.

293 J.M. Collinge : office holders British navy (Bristol R. O).

294 Kew family records.

295 See Figure 20 page 217.

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

Samuel Limmer who owned an omnibus<sup>296</sup>

Figure 19:

Bessy (nee  
Elizabeth Limmer)

holding  
granddaughter  
Marjory Scott



Samuel was not the only Limmer driving an omnibus. Samuel Limmer's omnibus route left the Buck Inn, Hall Quay, daily at 10 am. returning from Norwich 6 pm – a distance of forty-six miles round trip. Francis Limmer's omnibus, left the Buck Inn, Hall Quay, daily, at 12.30 for Lowestoft returning 7 pm – a distance of around twenty miles.

John Limmer's omnibus, left the Buck inn, Hall Quay, at 5.30 every evening for Lowestoft picking up

mail from the Dukes Head on the way.

The roads from Gorleston were well used in the eighteen-fifties. Another man who used these roads twice daily was Joe Cockrill. Joe married Bessie Limmer a granddaughter of Samuel<sup>(1810.U)</sup> and sister of Samuel the omnibus driver. Joe was a carter by trade, who, twice daily made the trip between Gorleston and Great Yarmouth to pick up .. eh...well.. almost anything really. I imagine he was kept busy by the rest of the Limmer family living in Gorleston at the time. John Limmer the bricklayer would need bricks, while Edward Miller Limmer<sup>297</sup> would need to shift his ground flour to the bakers of Yarmouth.

The John Line descends from John<sup>(1648.U)</sup> through John<sup>(1721.U)</sup>, whose

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<sup>296</sup> These were horse drawn omnibuses , steam driven omnibuses were not introduced until 1871 (although there were experiments as early as 1830). The first petrol driven omnibus appeared around 1896.

<sup>297</sup> Names from Post office directory Norfolk September 1865.

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

line travelled, via the new world, to end up in Bury-Saint-Edmunds.

John Limmer<sup>(1721.U)</sup> <sup>298</sup> appears to have been apprenticed at the age of 12, in the new shipping industry of Great Yarmouth, where he learned the Blacksmith trade.

Family\_Line\_ 61:

**John**<sup>(1734.U)</sup>

**&**

**Lucy Clarke**

James<sup>(1764.61)</sup>

John<sup>(1766.61)</sup>

William<sup>(1768.61)</sup>

Martha<sup>(1770.61)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1777.61)</sup>

His son John<sup>(1734.U)</sup> married Lucy Clarke in 1765 at Calton parish church, moving to Attleborough. John moved several times in his life but eventually died in 1819 in Old Buckingham. John then breaks the tradition of naming the first born John. Their first son James<sup>(1764.61)</sup> married Elizabeth Hovell in 1784 at Besthorpe.<sup>299</sup>

The Hovells were of themselves an influential family with wealth, so males of the family hyphenated Hovell to form a double barrelled surname.

Their six Children were :<sup>300</sup>

1) Lucy<sup>(1786.62)</sup>, born in Attleborough, died 1832, Rockland

*St Peter, Norfolk.*

2) Edward Hovell Limmer<sup>(1787.62)</sup>, Besthorpe<sup>301</sup>, Norfolk, dying 1849, Besthorpe.

3) Sophia<sup>(1789.62)</sup>, Besthorpe, Norfolk, dying 1840, Wayland, Norfolk.

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298 All the following records are from Norfolk Records Office Ipswich.

299 BESTHORPE, 1 mile E. of Attleborough, is a parish with 134 houses, population 614 and 2,132 acres of land, chiefly the property of the Earl of Winterton, the lord of the manor, The Church, a cruciform edifice, dedicated to All Saints, with a lofty tower and five bells.

300 All the following records are from Norfolk Records Office Ipswich & 1801 census

301 According to the Besthorpe directory of persons, Edward Hovell-Limmer was in residence at Besthorpe hall .

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

Family\_Line\_62:

**James**<sup>(1764.61)</sup>

**&**

**Elizabeth Hovell**

Lucy<sup>(1766.62)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1787.62)</sup>

Sophia<sup>(1789.62)</sup>

James<sup>(1790.62)</sup>

John<sup>(1791.62)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1795.62)</sup>

*From Family line 61  
Page 209*

4) *James Hovell Limmer*<sup>(1790.62)</sup>, Besthorpe, until 1847.

5) *John Hovell Limmer*<sup>(1791.62)</sup>, Besthorpe, dying 1794.

6) *Elizabeth*<sup>(1795.62)</sup> Besthorpe, dying 1866, Wymondham, Norfolk.

They seem to have been a wealthy, close, loving family, with influence in both village and Church. Several graves and plaques in and around the church are testimony to this. On the south side we read :

Sacred to the memory of Mary Anne the beloved wife of  
**James Hovell Limmer of Roudham Hall**  
died Nov 23rd 1868 aged 34 years  
also  
of **James Hovell Limmer**  
died January 5th 1874 aged 39 years

*I shall go to him but he shall not return to me*

*Text 1: James Hovell Limmer Plaque 1*

Other testimonies read

In affectionate remembrance of Elizabeth the wife of James Hovell Limmer of Roudham Hall died  
March 29th 1871 aged 39 years

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

on a family Tomb within an iron rail on the south side we can read

James Hobell Limmer of Roudham Hall

died March the 6th 1847 aged 56 years

also, of

Anne his wife who died April 1st 1865 aged 64 years

also,

Lucy Victoria infant daughter.

Sacred to the memory of  
Elizabeth Hobell  
the second and beloved daughter of  
James Hobell & Anne Limmer  
who died  
November 13<sup>th</sup> 1850  
aged 12 years

I take away from thee  
the desire of thine eyes with a stroke Ezek 24. 16.

*Text 2: James Hovell Limmer Plaque 2*

On the death of James Hovell Limmer in 1874, the Hovel estate at Roudham was split up as three of the surviving children went to South Carolina, United States of America.

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

Family\_Line\_63:

**John**<sup>(1766.61)</sup>

**&**

**Mary Barber**

Elizabeth<sup>(1788.63)</sup>

Michael<sup>(1791.63)</sup>

John<sup>(1794.63)</sup>

George<sup>(1800.63)</sup>

Ann<sup>(1803.63)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1804.63)</sup>

Elizabeth<sup>(1805.63)</sup>

From Family line 61  
Page 209

John<sup>(1734.U)</sup> and Lucy's second son John<sup>(1766.62)</sup> married Mary Barber in 1790, at New Buckenham John is recorded as receiving an annuity which made him an independent man. But he also owned a windmill in Forncett St. Peter.<sup>302</sup> on May 17, 1791 John sold the Post mill<sup>303</sup>, (which also had several sets of grinding stones to cope with anything from rough grain to flour), with vacant possession. The mill had a granary, and other buildings and also rights to common land adjoining.

There was a house on the land, but John was happy to sell the mill with or without the house. In fact he probably sold it without the house as he is later recorded as having '*other properties*'.

The children of John and Mary were:<sup>304</sup>

1) Elizabeth<sup>(1788.63)</sup>, New Buckenham, dying around 1799.

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302 Forncett St. Peter, May 17, 1791 "To be sold and entered upon immediately A Capital POST WINDMILL with two pair of French Stones & a Flour Mill within her, situated at Forncett St. Peter in Norfolk, with or without a Dwelling house, Granary & other convenient Buildings & one acre of exceeding good Land, with an advantageous right of Commonage. Enquire of Mr. John Limmer, Tibenham. " Norfolk Chronicle - 21st & 28th May & 4th June 1791

303 See Figure 21 page 217

304 All the following records are from Norfolk Records Office Ipswich & 1801 census.



## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

- 2) *Michael<sup>(1791.63)</sup>, born Banham, and dying 1852 in Wayland. (He was a farm Bailiff. Marrying in 1816, he died in 1852 Lincolnshire).*
- 3) *John Barber<sup>(1794.63)</sup>, Banham, Norfolk.*
- 4) *George<sup>(1800.63)</sup>, Banham, Norfolk, died 1857, Coltishall, George was a veterinary surgeon. He married, having three children while living in Banham, then he took his family to Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham until 1828, after which he returned to Coltishall. He remained there until he died in 1857.*
- 5) *Ann<sup>(1803.63)</sup>, Banham, Norfolk.*
- 6) *Lucy<sup>(1804.63)</sup>, Banham, Norfolk.*
- 7) *Elizabeth<sup>(1805.63)</sup>, Banham, Norfolk.*

Family\_Line\_64:

**William<sup>(1768.61)</sup>**

**&**

**Ann Davy**

May Ann<sup>(1795.64)</sup>

Mary Ann<sup>(1796.64)</sup>

John Davy<sup>(1799.64)</sup>

Lionel<sup>(1799.64)</sup>

James<sup>(1801.64)</sup>

From Family line 61  
Page 209

John<sup>(1734.U)</sup> and Lucy Had a Third son, William<sup>(1768.61)</sup>. William<sup>(1768.61)</sup> was apprenticed to a baker until 1800 AD when William bought a bakers shop in Risby Gate Street Bury<sup>305</sup> He married Ann Davy, their five children were:

- 1) *May Ann, born 1795.*
- 2) *Mary Ann, born 1796, died 1797 in New Buckenham.*
- 3) *John Davey, born. 1797, New Buckenham, died Bury-Saint-Edmunds 1857.*
- 4) *Lionel born 1799, in New Buckenham,*
- 5) *James born 1801 in New Buckenham, Norfolk, died 1872 in Bury-Saint-Edmunds.*

Another family living in Banam around this time was headed by William<sup>(1714.U)</sup> who married Susan Taylor, 1st September 1746 at Banham and died September 1794 at Banham, Norfolk. William started late in life, being 34 when his first child was born. The couple had the following children:

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305 (Bury Businesses p 749).

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

Family\_Line\_ 65:

**William**<sup>(1714,U)</sup>

**&**

**Susan Taylor**

John Taylor<sup>(1748,65)</sup>

William<sup>(1750,65)</sup>

Susan<sup>(1752,65)</sup>

Thomas<sup>(1755,65)</sup>

Thomas<sup>(1760,65)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1760,65)</sup>

- 1) *John Taylor*<sup>(1748,46)</sup> *Banham who married Susan Barker.*
- 2) *William*<sup>(1750,65)</sup> *Banham who married Sarah Banham Died 26 Mar 1804.*
- 3) *Susan*<sup>(1752,65)</sup>, *Susan married Charles Catlin.*
- 4) *Thomas*<sup>(1755,48)</sup>. *Died 1757 in Banam.*
- 5) *Thomas*<sup>(1760,48)</sup>.
- 6) *Edmond or Edward*<sup>(1760,48)</sup> *died 1760.*

William owned land in Old Buckenham, The house was in excellent repair and housed many luxuries. The estate had several mills and barns on it which William used as business to grind neighbours wheat, oats barley and rye. While keeping most forms of grinding down in price, William took an advertisement in the Norfolk Chronicle on 24th November 1792 to say he was increasing his charges for grist Grinding.<sup>306</sup>

In 1795, William sold the entire estate, mills, and barns by auction. Entrepreneur William was starting out in a new line of business.<sup>307</sup> His son

Family\_Line\_ 66:

**William**<sup>(1750,65)</sup>

**&**

**Sarah Rouse**

*From Family line 65  
Page 214*

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306. William Limmer Signatory to Notice re increase in charges for Grist Grinding. Norfolk Chronicle - 24th November 1792.

307 To be Sold by Auction By W. Parson At the Kings Head, New Buckenham, Norfolk On Friday June 19, 1795 at 3 o'clock. An ESTATE situated in Old Buckenham consisting of an excellent dwelling house replete with every conveniency, yards, garden & about an acre of exceeding good land, together with a capital post windmill, boulting house, boulting mill, flour house & granary, now in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Limmer, the owner, who is going into another line of business. The premises are freehold, moderately assessed to the land tax, are in full trade & in the most complete repair. Apply to the said Mr. Limmer or to the Auctioneer at Attleborough. Norfolk Chronicle - 6th & 13th June 1795.

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

William<sup>(1750.65)</sup> Married Sarah at Banham on 29th September 1777 at Wilby and died 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 1804.

Before we leave Norfolk we must mention Henry<sup>(1805.U)</sup> Limmer. Henry<sup>(1805.U)</sup> was actually in Portsmouth until around 1805 but we find him residing in Norfolk in 1826. He was in Ipswich for less than a year before appearing at Norfolk assizes on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1827. Henry<sup>(1805.U)</sup> was sentenced to penal servitude for life in Australia. He was taken from the court room to a hulk ship<sup>308</sup> while awaiting his deportation.

Henry, described as aged 31, five-feet-nine-inches tall, Ruddy and fair, was one of 168 convicts transported on the *Marquis of Hastings*. The ship sailed from Portsmouth on 14 April 1827, stopping a Rio-de-Janeiro, then on to New South Wales<sup>309</sup>. When he arrived, he was put under the watchful eye of Michael Henderson and given the job as sawyer<sup>310</sup>. He became part of the gang clearing the forest of Newcastle, New South Wales for a new town. Henry was clearly having none of this<sup>311</sup>. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1838 he absconded. His adventure was short lived and on 17<sup>th</sup> October he was apprehended and returned<sup>312</sup>.

A little more apprehensively, he planned his second escape in late 1839 and managed to avoid recapture until he was returned on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1840. He must have behaved himself after this - at least for

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308 A hulk is a decommissioned non seaworthy ship. Hulks were moored in harbours and used as floating prisons for convicts being sent to Australia. The 1776 act allowed them to be used to house prisoners.

309 Australian Joint Copying Project. Microfilm Roll 88, Class and Piece Number HO11/6, Page Number 167 (85) :

310 Hand sawing trees with a two man saw.

311 Unlike his ancient ancestors from Hampshire who gladly chopped trees down for their houses in Limmer fields

312 Convict savings book Australia.

## Chapter 20 NORFOLK

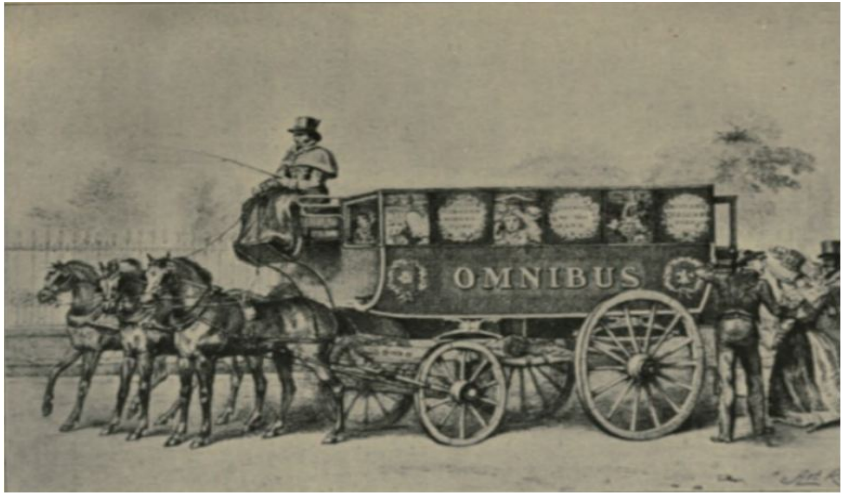
a year – as, on 19th October 1841, he was issued with a "ticket of *leave*". He stayed in Newcastle after his pardon where he met Catherine Murphy, who had also been deported from England. They married in Newcastle on November 1844 at Christchurch cathedral<sup>313</sup>. Catherine was 33 years of age and Henry was 37.

One is tempted to say *and they lived happily ever after* – I do hope so – I have a sneaking admiration for Henry's tenacity.

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313 Register book of Christchurch Cathedral Newcastle New south Wales page 21.

## History of Limmers



*Figure 20: The first omnibus – but not belonging to Limmer*



*Figure 21: The black post mill in the foreground' belonged to John<sup>(1766.62)</sup> in Fornsett St. Peter, Norfolk. John sold the mill May 17, 1791. The mill in the background belonged to William<sup>(1750.65)</sup> who sold his estate and house by auction in November 1792.*

## Chapter 21 BURY-SAINT-EDMUNDS VIA USA

**I**hesitate before starting this chapter. Father Time is crossing the line from 1799 to 1800 and with it is bringing a new box ticking culture. All over the world's countries start taking records and censuses seriously. We can follow a middle or upper class person being born, being educated, being married, boarding a boat and disembarking the other end, building a business, building a family and burying the dead. To simply try to include all this information would make this chapter extremely boring and impossibly long<sup>314</sup>. Far better to let the reader choose the interesting information from the readily available sources.

No, the purpose of this chapter is first to tie up some loose ends of Limmers from pre-census era. Second, to show how Limmers expand rapidly all over the world from here on. Third, to show how descendants of one family begin to diversify in interest and outlook so widely from another branch. Fourth, to show how the fortunes or misfortunes of one person in any chain can affect a line for generations to come.

So then, leaving aside the numerous side shoots of this productive line of Limmers, we focus in on a few of the Bury-Saint-Edmunds group.

By the time of the 1821 census, James<sup>(1801.64)</sup> born New Buckingham Norfolk, had travelled to USA and returned with two children to settle in a set of terraced houses marked on the Bury-Saint-Edmunds map of 1801 as 'Limmer Terraces' and situated

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314 I counted at least 197 members of this family, most of which were just a listing of who was who.

## History of Limmers

opposite St Mary's park in Bury-Saint-Edmunds. The family occupied 61-67 Field Lane known as Limmer Terraces. Maria Howe (17 years old) was listed as servant.

Family\_Line\_ 67:

**James**<sup>(1801.64)</sup>

**&**

**Mary Ann**

Mary Anne<sup>(1827.67)</sup>

James Hovell<sup>(1831.67)</sup>

William<sup>(1832.67)</sup>

Henry<sup>(1833.67)</sup>

Edward<sup>(1834.67)</sup>

Eliza<sup>(1837.67)</sup>

*From family line 64*

*Page 213*

This, the more affluent part of the family, was closely associated with the corn exchange at Bury. James<sup>(1801.64)</sup> expresses the pride of a self made man on the 1851 census by describing himself as a '*Miller* and baker supplier man and boy'. By the time of the census he is a representative of the corn exchange – presumably leaving someone to manage his baker shop which continued trading in Field Lane.<sup>315</sup> James, working for the corn exchange would certainly have made a business connection with the Tuddenham Limmers. As far as we can tell however, the relationship of these kiths and kin was mainly conducted as business; there is nothing to suggest the families met socially.

James Hovell<sup>(1864.67)</sup> moved from New Buckingham in Norfolk. His father John<sup>(1734.U)</sup>, a blacksmith, was born, built his business in, and died a native of Buckingham. Why James came to Bury, we do not know. He moved with enough time to set up his baker shop and establish himself in the corn exchange before the 1881 census. He accumulated wealth enough to educate his son at the prestigious King Edward Grammar School, where he is listed as '*Loyalist*'. Loyalist did not denote his allegiance to the king. The tradition of the grammar school was to call Bury residents '*Loyalist*' and all

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315 Pure speculation - Thomas Limmer of Tuddenham may having been employed at this shop, he appears to have moved between Bury and Tuddenham quite often.

## Chapter 21 BURY-SAINT-EDMUNDS VIA USA

others folk as '*Foreigners*'. Such terms in themselves set the pupils mindset in as forerunners of the elite public schools of today. No doubt, this branch of the family drifted apart from their Tuddenham relations by subject of politics, values and class. To do well in the corn exchange required conformity to the establishment because it had the ear of the King.

Family\_Line\_ 68:

**James Hovell**  
(1831.67)

*From family line 67  
Page 219*

James<sup>(1801.64)</sup> died 21st March 1872 (aged 71) and was buried in a rather grand Family tomb which still stands in Bury-Saint-Edmunds today. His wife Mary Ann Born 1804, (according to the census), died 28th November 1883 (81 years old according to death register).

Daughter Mary Anne, Born 1828, remained unmarried until her death 16th March 1898 (aged 71 according to the death register), being buried in the same family grave. The graveyard of St Mary's Cemetery is opposite Limmers Terraces in Saint Mary's, Bury. James and Mary Ann also had a son, Edward, born 1834 and a Daughter, Eliza (Elizer), born 1836.<sup>316</sup>

The brother of James, John Davy, also born in New Buckingham in 1798, moved to Bury-Saint-Edmunds Married Lucy from Stowmarket in 1828. Lucy was nine years younger than John Davy was. She was born in 1807. John and Lucy had a son William (born 1829) a daughter Lucy, (born 1830) three years later in 1833, they had another daughter, Louisa. As soon as William had finished his schooling, his father set him up in a bakers

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316 Index Nominum p 305: Bury St Edmund Trade Directory p749.



## History of Limmers

Family\_Line\_ 69:  
**John Davy**<sup>(1798.64)</sup>  
& Lucy

William<sup>(1829.69)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1830..69)</sup>

Louisa<sup>(1833.69)</sup>

From Family Line 64  
Page 213

business at Risby Gate Street.<sup>317</sup>

James' younger brother Lionel, (born 1799), moved to Bury-Saint-Edmunds<sup>318</sup>, where he met his wife Caroline. Soon after their marriage in 1836, they travelled to America. Their first son Lionel (junior) was born while they were there in 1838. A second son, Frances, was also born in USA in 1840.

Family\_Line\_ 70:  
**Lionel**<sup>(1798.64)</sup>  
& Caroline

Lucy<sup>(1830.70)</sup>

Louisa<sup>(1833.70)</sup>

Lionel<sup>(1833.701)</sup>

Frances<sup>(1838.70)</sup>

Ann<sup>(1846.70)</sup>

From Family Line 64  
Page 213

Deciding to return home to Bury-Saint-Edmunds, the family set sail and arrived in the spring of 1845. Arriving back in Bury-Saint-Edmunds by 1846, they had time to establish themselves in business at 57 Northgate Street as '*Baker and Bakers Supplier*' before daughter Anne was born. In 1846.

The family were:

- 1) *Lucy Bury-Saint-Edmunds, Suffolk, England.*
- 2) *Louisa, Bury-Saint-Edmunds, Suffolk, England.*
- 3) *Lionel, USA.*
- 4) *Frances, USA.*
- 5) *Ann, Bury-Saint-Edmunds, Suffolk, England.*

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317 Index Nominum p 305: Bury St Edmund Trade Directory p749.

318 Index Nominum p 305: Bury St Edmund Trade Directory p749.

## Chapter 21 BURY-SAINT-EDMUNDS VIA USA



*Figure 23: Family Tomb at Bury-Saint\_Edmund*

## History of Limmers



King Edward VI Grammar School

*Figure 22: King Edward Grammar School*

## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

I have included a chapter on the Mildenhall line because of its interest in two ways. First it shows Limmers having that urge to travel again. It has been almost a thousand years from the time Limmers paddled a longboat from Germany to England and they appear to have been happy here. Moving from Hampshire to Norfolk – or perhaps even as high as the Midlands, seems to have been the limit of their ambition. There may be a few that made to trip to Scotland and Ireland but generally there is no great spirit of adventure.

By the end of the seventeen-hundreds, things are getting harder in England and the thought of greater prosperity stirred that spirit of adventure which had laid dormant so long. With the advent of steam and the steam ship, some of this line decided to travel far and wide.

The second reason is to show the way the family is now large enough to develop an independent spirit. Early Limmers and early days show the family had been fairly well looked after by the church. But since the reformation and the decline of the Catholic church, Limmers had dabbled with the reformers in the established church. We have no record of Limmers, up to this point, leaving the church of England for newly formed churches like Methodist, Quaker or Baptist. This line takes the lead.

Edmund Limmer<sup>(1778.U)</sup> <sup>319</sup> a shepherd from Tuddenham (1778) married Mary Anne Sharpe 1801 at Mildenhall. Just where Edmund fits into the picture at either Tuddenham or Mildenhall is not clear but here he was and thus deserves a mention.

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<sup>319</sup> Possibly son of Edmund<sup>(1750)</sup>.

## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

Family_Line_ 71: <b>Edmund</b> <sup>(1778.U)</sup> & <b>Mary Anne Sharpe</b>
 William <sup>(1813.71)</sup> Lucy <sup>(1816.71)</sup> Stephen <sup>(1818.71)</sup>

Edmund<sup>(1750.U)</sup> is recorded as having a small holding just outside Tuddenham on the Mildenhall side. but there is no clear connection with any of the other families of Tuddenham. Edmund<sup>(1778.U)</sup> is probably his son.

The Sharpe family lived little more than a mile down the road on the Tuddenham side of Mildenhall. On the wedding certificate, Edmund is described a shepherd from Tuddenham while Mary Anne is described as from Mildenhall. Their

offspring include:

- 1) *William baptised 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1813.*
- 2) *Lucy Baptised 9<sup>th</sup> March 1816. and*
- 3) *Stephen 18<sup>th</sup> October 1818.*

The family moved to Herringswell soon after the birth of Stephen where they had two other children. In 1820, they moved again to Brinkley in Cambridgeshire. A sixth child baptised at Brinkley Cambridgeshire 1821, and described as the daughter of Edmund and Mary, was Mary Anne, Mary Anne died less than a year later in Brinkley in 1822.

Philip and Jane, you will remember from page 172 and Family Line 46, were the loving couple who lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in 1880. We pick up the story of their son Stephen<sup>(1784.56)</sup>, (from Family Line 56 on page 199), who married Frances Norman<sup>320</sup>. After their Marriage on the 22nd July 1808 in

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320 Frances Norman born 1808, from Barton Mills.

## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

Barton Mills they set up home in Tuddenham. First-born Lucy<sup>(1809.43)</sup> was baptised on 22nd May 1809 in Tuddenham.

Shortly after, second child Philip<sup>(1810.43)</sup> was baptised on 23rd August 1810 in Tuddenham, the family moved to Diss in Norfolk where Charles<sup>(1814.43)</sup> was baptised.

Moving from there, when Charles<sup>(1814.43)</sup> was just one year old, they settled in Mildenhall, where they stayed for the rest of their married life together.

According to the local History society, West row and its surrounding hamlets were hotbeds of nonconformity. West Row had both a Baptist chapel and a Methodist hall leaving only a few loyal people in the congregation at St Mary's. Philip and Jane joined the local Baptist church, becoming members<sup>321</sup>. So when Stephen<sup>(1816.43)</sup> was born 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1816 he was dedicated at Mildenhall West Row Baptist chapel. According to Baptist doctrines, a person must be of an age to choose and give a reason for wanting to be baptised. Early reformers had long since rejected the idea that baptism was a right of passage into the church. However, as the parish register was also the means of keeping track of local population and legally required by the state, Baptists used a dedication service to register new born children. This, non-conformist churches did so until the state took over the role itself and registered them separately.

Elizabeth<sup>(1821.43)</sup> then, was born 28<sup>th</sup> August 1821 and dedicated at Mildenhall West Row Baptist chapel. Followed by Matilda<sup>(1824.43)</sup>

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321 Philip and Jane appear to be the first Limmers to become non-conformist but they were quickly followed by others. By 1785, five Limmer families in Suffolk and three in Middlesex follow on the non-conformist register. Source non-conformist registers RG4- RG6. Adam<sup>(1802.U)</sup> Limmer's family join the Quakers, Most of the others join either the Methodists or Baptists.

## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

born 16<sup>th</sup> April 1824 and dedicated at Mildenhall West Row Baptist chapel. Elizabeth and Matilda were both married in Tuddenham but moved to an unknown location soon afterwards.

Stephen<sup>(1784.56)</sup> married his cousin, Frances Norman at Barton Mills. The marriage licence dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1808.

Their children were:<sup>322</sup>

- 1) *Lucy who died in 1811.*
- 2) *Philip baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1810 Tuddenham. Died 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1859 at Marylebone.*
- 3) *Charles baptised Diss, Norfolk.*

By 1817, Philip and Frances had decided to join the Baptist church at West Row, so the next four children of Philip and Frances were brought for dedication.

- 4) *Stephen was born 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1817 and later dedicated Mildenhall West Row Baptist.*
- 5) *Elizabeth Born 28<sup>th</sup> August 1821 dedicated Mildenhall West Row Baptist.*
- 6) *Matilda Born 1824 and dedicated at Mildenhall West Row Baptist.*
- 7) *Henry born 1829. Henry married Louisa Goodyer 16th April 1854 Clerkenwell.*

Charles<sup>(1814.43)</sup> was born in Diss, moved with his parents to Mildenhall where he lived until his marriage to Sarah Green in January 1837 at Ely St Mary Norfolk. After their marriage they settled for eighteen years in Ely St Mary. There they produced seven

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322 Details of this family researched and organized by Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010 )

## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

children all of whom were baptised in the local church.

- 1) *John born 1837, died 1913 New Zealand.*
- 2) *William born 1842, married Eliza Grooby died 1915 Moteuka.*
- 3) *Lucy born 1844, married William Hale. She died 1893.*
- 4) *Charles born 1847, born 14 married Martha Nealie and died 12 Dec 1935 Te Kowhai.*
- 5) *Betsy born 1849,*
- 6) *Henry born 1851.*
- 7) *Stephen born 1853, married Henrietta Starnes. He died in 1901.*

All the family boarded the steamer ship *Sir Alan MacNab* to New Zealand, arriving at Nelson on 8th August 1855.<sup>323</sup> Charles worked in the hotel industry eventually becoming the owner of the Globe Hotel in Papakura. Charles was granted Publicans licence for Globe Hotel in 1878<sup>324</sup> Charles died 1896 Papakura New Zealand.

Stephen<sup>(1816.43)</sup> married Mary Anne. He was born Tuddenham St Mary but died September 28th, aged 71 years. at Tottenham Rise, Lower Moutere , New Zealand.

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323 New Zealand Chronicle, 11 August 1855, Nelson Examiner report , see also Sir Allan McNab Interlude\_of\_Interest 10.

324 Papakura toward the north of New Zealand : New Zealand Licensing register 1877-1879.



## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

Family\_Line\_ 72:

**Stephen**<sup>(1816.43)</sup>

**&**

**Mary Anne**

Mary Anne<sup>(1842.72)</sup>

George<sup>(1847.72)</sup>

from family line  
43  
page 156

Stephen and Mary had 2 children

- 1) *Mary Anne born 1842 born in Tottenham married Joseph Hewetson.*
- 2) *George born 1847 Tottenham, married Caroline Sutton died 1911.*

While the children were still young in 1854, the parents packed up their belongings, (including the pendulum clock), made their way down to Cornwall and boarded a steam ship, to join Stephen's elder brother in New Zealand.

George,<sup>325</sup> *'a quiet retiring man', settled in Brook Street and endured the hardships of the old pioneers, 'but thrift and integrity surmounted all difficulties, and he settled in the Lower Moutere, where, he had lived for the last 44 years' of his life.*

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325 See Interlude\_of\_Interest 11 George Limmer discovered by Maureen Darby researches between (1970-2010 ) Marlborough Express, Volume XLV, Issue 231, 7 October 1911, Page 4

## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

### *Interlude\_of\_Interest 10: Sir Allan McNab*

"*Sir Allan MacNab*" sailed from Deal on the 17th April 1855 for New Zealand and arrived with 105 assisted immigrants, and 24 miners for the Dun Mountain copper mine and a Superintendent of the works. James Battle and James Smith were passengers.

James Battle was murdered along with five other men in 1866 while walking from Deep Creek in the Wakamarina gold field to Nelson. The track followed the Maitai river and was used by horse and foot travellers between Nelson and Blenheim and labourers for the Dun Mountain Copper Mine.

We are glad to be able to announce the safe arrival of the *Sir Allan Mc Nab*, with 105 assisted immigrants, and 24 miners and labourers for the Dun Mountain copper mine, and a Superintendent of the works.

We are also glad to welcome back Mr. Wrey, whose voyage to England to get up a company to work the mine has been eminently successful; for, should the operations of this preliminary staff prove satisfactory, we may expect out, with the least possible delay, a large additional body of miners and labourers.

The *Sir Allan M'Nab* has on board all the necessary tools and machinery for the works.

Arrived. Aug. 8, ship *Sir Allan McNab*,

840, Cherry, from London, with a general cargo.

**Passengers** — Mrs. Cherry and child, Mr. W.L. Wrey, Mr. How

**Assisted Immigrants** — Mr. and Mrs. Abbot and one do., Mr. Bird and three children, Mr. Bishop, Mr. R. Bishop

M. Bishop, Mr. D. Brennan, Mr. and Mrs. Blick and one do., H. Burns, Mr. Coster, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain

Mr. and Mrs. Drummond, Mr. A. Drummond, Mr. and Mrs. Drummond and 8 do., Mr. and Mrs. Greig and four children

Mr. Griffith, Mr. Healy, Mr. and Mrs. Hodges and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey and three do.

Mr. and Mrs. Inglis and three do, Mr. and Mrs. Leahy and 2 do., E. Lee, **Mr. and Mrs. Limmer and seven do.**

Mr. and Mrs. M'Artney, Mary Moynihar, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connel and one child,

Mr. and Mrs. O'Leary and six do. Mr. and Mrs. Parkes, Mary Patullo, C. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Shanahan and five children,

Mr. and Mrs. Watt and five do., Mr. and Mrs. Wesman and one child, Mr. and Mrs. Withey and one child, and 24 miners and labourers.

## History of Limmers



*Figure 24: West Row baptist Church*

## Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

### ***Interlude\_of Interest 11: George Limmer***

*"Marlborough Express, Volume XLV, Issue 231, 7 October 1911, Page 4*

*Another old settler of the Lower Moutere passed away on Saturday morning at the age of 64, in the person of Mr George Limmer who came out on the ship Cornwall with his father and mother in the year 1854.*

*He settled in Brook Street (reports the- Nelson Colonist) and endured the hardships of the old pioneers, but thrift and integrity surmounted all difficulties, and he settled in the Lower Moutere, where, he had lived for the last 44 years.*

*Mr Limmer's father brought out with him amongst other things the large clock that stands in the entrance to the Lands Office at the Government Buildings, Nelson.*

*For the past three years Mr Limmer had suffered from a painful malady, and he gradually became worse, until he took to his bed a fortnight ago. He was a quiet, retiring man, and took no active part in public affairs. He leaves a widow and step-daughter.*

## History of Limmers

Chapter 22 MILDENHALL

PART 4  
THE END OF THE LINE

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 23 WIVENHOE

Three miles from Colchester lies the parish of Wivenhoe. in the 16th century it was an independent village under a Lord of the Manor. The village spanned both sides of the river, the southern side being a little more select while the northern side gained a reputation for darker deeds like smuggling and drunken rowdiness. Most of the Fifteen inns played 'unlawful' games of alleys, cards, and slide-thrift. Many of these inns would lighten the pockets of overnight guests, who had brought cartloads of goods to be loaded onto ships. Bowling, cricket matches, dances, an annual toy fair and sailing matches were all part of the village life. These encouraged the crowds for the pickpocket to go about their business.

At low tide horse-drawn traffic could cross the river by an eleven foot wide causeway. In the seventeenth century the causeway was frequently 'in need of repair ' and often obstructed, unsurprising really, because the lord of Wivenhoe manor held the rights and interests to the toll ferry. He was also entitled to levies on ships for anchorage in the port, driftwood, and 'royal fishes' (*pisces regales*).

Wivenhoe port was an important part of Colchester because water transport connected Wivenhoe with London. By Edward's <sup>(1737.46)</sup> time, two Colchester '*packet boats*' went weekly from Wivenhoe to London with cloth and returned with wool for the Colchester cloth industry.

In 1723 the rector's report shows a population of 110 families. In 1524 a total of 94 people were assessed for subsidy, which tells us that this was a notoriously poor area. They counted families because, of course, most men were away at sea.

Smallpox epidemics in 1726, 1762, and 1776, left a number of cheap, empty houses, into which redundant people like Edward



## Chapter 23 WIVENHOE

(1737.<sup>46</sup>) moved. Thus, Wivenhoe, once a busy seafaring port, declined further as redundant clothiers from the factories tried to scratch a living from cottage industry that had long since ceased to be profitable.

We pick up our story again with Edward's family in Wivenhoe. We are still in the age of candles for lighting<sup>326</sup>, one coal fire per working man's house -(if you are lucky), fourteen-hour working days with one meal a day. Steam is beginning to drive machinery in the factories of Colchester and there might be an occasional spectacle of a steam ship passing up or down river of Wivenhoe. The Sunday school society, founded to educate poor children in 1785, passed by Wivenhoe. It would not see the benefits of this for another few years yet because, (like so many of these charities), they worked with the '*relatively poor*' rather than the '*dire poor*'. A new chimney sweep law of 1788, forbade children under eight from going up chimneys, it was not enforced and few masters took notice of it.

If you belong to a "better class", you might join one of the new golf clubs,<sup>327</sup> or you might like to read the first Sunday news paper<sup>328</sup> with an 'S' that looks like an 'S' not an '**f**'.<sup>329</sup>

Times were tough for Edward's branch of the Limmer tree, but hope and tenacity carried them through and things got better, even though

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326 Coal-gas lighting invented by William Murdock, an Ayrshire Scot, in 1792. and used to light the streets of London in 1807.

327 Golf clubs were being formed by 1784.

328 the Observer.

329 Dec 4 1791: First publication of The Observer – world's oldest Sunday newspaper

John Bell, printer, abandons the "long s" (the "s" that looks like an "f") in the same year.

## Chapter 23 WIVENHOE

it took a couple of generations.

## History of Limmers

### **Norwich & Bury Post**

**wednesday 27th August 1806**

Following the inquisition taken before the coroner for this liberty: at Stoke by Nayland, on Thursday, on the Body of John Limmer, who was riding the bar of a stagecoach drawn by four horses, when the carriage broke down, and fell upon him, by which he was killed on the spot.

The said coach contained a newly married couple from Colchester and eight persons inside with two others beside the deceased on the bar.

*Figure 25: John's Road Accident*

## Advertiser Saturday 11 March 1876

### Lowestoft Coroners report

#### Death at Sea-

An inquest was held at the Suffolk Hotel on Thursday before C.W. Chaston Esq. County Coroner, relative to the death of George Limmer aged 72 years who died at sea on Tuesday last. Daniel Bethmeat of Lowestoft said "I am master of Gem of the Ocean. The deceased was one of my crew. We went to sea on Monday afternoon last for a fishing voyage. The deceased was employed as a cook. He appeared quite well when we went on board, but complained of his head aching on Monday night. He died on Tuesday afternoon. He ate nothing while he was on board

but drank about a wineglass of whiskey. He appeared to be in a dead sleep for 11 hours before his death."

Alfred Zugg, John Prior and Walter Vincent corroborated the foregoing evidence. Prior added that the deceased ate some bread and cheese on board.

Mr W.H. Clubbe surgeon Lowestoft said "I saw the deceased at the dead house and saw no marks of violence about his body. From the evidence of the witnesses I am of the opinion death was caused by apoplexy". The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes".....

*Figure 26: George dies at sea*

## History of Limmers

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

Having met Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> and Mary Caldecott in part three, chapter 17, we can follow their children.

Edward, you will remember, had a traumatic childhood. Born with a disadvantage,<sup>330</sup> the situation seems to have worsened when his mother died during his fifth year - he clearly had a personality clash with his step mother. This seems to have led to turbulent teenage years and, if it did not lead to a rebellious life it certainly seems to have affected his ability to handle money and personal relationships. Moving out from the family into lodgings in Barrow, and into a factory woolcombing job. He married Mary Caldecott who was five months pregnant on her wedding day. It may have been the woolcombers strike or just plain redundancy that made them move back to Tuddenham for a while. The first three children were baptised in Tuddenham, then, sometime between 1780 and 1782 they moved to Wivenhoe where George was born.

The behaviour pattern of his six children suggests a stormy marriage and home life. The daughters of Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> were reasonably well educated and Ann married well, Perhaps under the watchful eye of grandparents at Tuddenham.

Sarah<sup>(1772.50)</sup>, baptised 12th January 1772 Barrow, remained a spinster all her life. She also remained close to her parents as they moved around the country probably keeping a watchful eye on then as daughters do. She was not provided for under the parish poor fund

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330 Edward may have also had a learning difficulty – possibly what today be diagnosed as ADHD or Aspergers.

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

with the rest of the family and there is a hint that she learned a trade in dressmaking - later owning a ladies dress shop in Colchester<sup>331</sup> My hunch is that there is a connection between Sarah and her cousin William Lymmer who was now running the Lymmer clothing factory<sup>332</sup> of Colchester. Between them I surmise they provided some cottage industry for Edward, and that would account for the money listed for John's parcel deliveries to Colchester every so often<sup>333</sup>. Sarah<sup>(1772.50)</sup> was buried Colchester 1843.

Lucy<sup>(1774.50)</sup> Limmer was baptised 5th November Tuddenham. She later married John Taylor and moved to Southampton.

Family_Line_ 73: <b>Ann</b> <sup>(1777.50)</sup> & <b>Henry Thompson</b>  <i>From family line 50 page 184</i>
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Daughter Ann<sup>(1777.50)</sup> was next to be baptised on 2nd February in Tuddenham. At the age of twenty-three, she married Henry Thompson in 1800 AD, a farmer living not five miles from Wivenhoe at Elmstead in Essex .

After three daughters, a first son John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> baptised 10th October 1779 Tuddenham John also had a short life, after twenty-seven years, he was buried 22nd August 1806 at Wivenhoe. John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> may have inherited Edward's disabilities<sup>334</sup>. Both John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> and his brother George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> spent the

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331 One Sarah Limmets still owned a ladies dress shop in Colchester in 1820/1. I suspect the connection with Limmer as there are no other Limmets mentioned in or around Colchester. I have no other leads on this: *Colchester businesses directory 1820-1825*

332 We will speak more of William in a moment.

333 Interlude\_of\_Interest 12 Page 245

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

next four or five years of their life on the poor register of Wivenhoe with their mother. According to the amended workhouse law, able-bodied people of fourteen and over were to apply to workhouses in their own right.

By the time John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> was fourteen, he had developed the nature of a willing and useful lad. At twelve, a young healthy male would have been expected to be out at work but John was still regularly making trips as an errand boy, probably collecting and delivering cloth.<sup>335</sup> John's father, Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup><sup>336</sup> who, probably for health reasons had turned his hand to other skills in the clothing trade. The 6d for round trips fair recorded in the poor house records are for runs between Wivenhoe and Colchester. These were paid regularly between 1798 and 1799. 'Old Limmer' (Edward), seems to have set up in tailoring from his terraced cottage in Wivenhoe<sup>337</sup>.

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335 Wivenhoe church warden's accounts show a number of trips undertaken by Limmer to buy cloth for workhouse personnel this may have included his father as he worked from his house in Wivenhoe. John is more likely to undertake these trips than George who was by this time apprenticed to and boarding with captain Baker.

336 A number of Parishes like Wivenhoe, had a by-rule stating that '... a woman in work house care is not allowed direct contact with her husband in case they produce more dependants and increased the burden on the parish'. The amended Act of the same year also allowed poorhouse discretion to refuse people of able body and sound mind over the age of 14 years.

337 See Wivenhoe Poor records relating to John & George page 245



## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

<u>Year</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>reason</u>
1798	Jan		0	6	Paid Limmer for carriage... 6d
1798	Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>		3	0	Paid Limmer for bringing a parcel from Colchester 3-0d
1798	Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>		10	0	Received of Captain Baker for Limmer 10-0d
1799	Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>		1	0	Paid Mr Limmer for bringing parcels from Colchester
<i>Interlude_of_Interest 12: Poor records relating to John &amp; George</i>					

My guess is that John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> was running errands between Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> and William Lymmer who, by then, had inherited the cloth and clothing factory in Colchester<sup>338</sup>. William signed his signature as master to several apprentices around this time, among them were: Peter Motteux, William Nickless, and a young lady named Elenor Amyion.<sup>339</sup>

John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> was twenty one when records of monitory assistance by the poorhouse suddenly cease. Whether he was delivering goods for his father or going to visit his relatives in Tuddenham that August day in 1806 will remain a mystery<sup>340</sup>. Just one year after the death of her husband Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup>, Mary suffered another blow with the death of her son John<sup>(1779.50)</sup>. John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> mounted the

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338 This factory had been running for a number of years. We remember the incident of the Lymmer factory trying to smuggle sail cloth to France from a previous chapter. it appears that they had expanded and branched out.

339 Register of apprentice Indentures 1710 -1811. Being Family, the fact that John was not apprenticed adds weight to the suggestion that John was in some way disabled – physical or mentally and unable to cope with this kind of work.

340 See Poor records relating to John & George page 245

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

bar on top of a stagecoach and four, bound from Colchester to Suffolk that morning. Officially, the bar of the stagecoach was for luggage but “everyone did it”; especially the poor who needed to travel third class. Barely twelve miles from home, the axle of the coach gave way and John, thrown from the stagecoach, was crushed. The inquest on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1806 was inconclusive but John's burial was not paid by parish but by the coach company. John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> died in 1806<sup>341</sup>.

### Family\_Line\_ 74:

**George<sup>(1783.50)</sup>  
&  
Susan Rose**

George<sup>(1804.74)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1807.74)</sup>

Mary Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup>

Susan<sup>(1814.74)</sup>

Lydia<sup>(1817.74)</sup>

*From family line 50  
page 184*

George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> born 1783, was living with his mother and Father Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> and Mary when his father fell on hard times. With the help, the local poor assessment committee of the council, (who were reluctant to enter a fourteen year old person onto the poor register as they were required to do), in 1797 boarded George out with Captain Baker<sup>342</sup> as an apprentice fisherman in the village of Wivenhoe.

If you visit Wivenhoe today you will see small boats lying on the mud waiting for high tide, just as George would have seen. Wivenhoe has silted up a little more since George's day but it is not difficult to imaging the winding river as the tide came in - bustling with fishermen trying to make a living. With only a short run down past Mersea island, into the Channel, and across to the continent, it gained the reputation as a smugglers paradise.

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341 See Interlude\_of\_Interest 12 page 245

342 The fact that he was 'Captain' Baker gives us the clue that he owned one of the larger vessels and travelled further into the channel to catch his fish.

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

George met a young lass named Susan Rose from the next village. Her folks were fishmongers and I can imagine them meeting at the water's edge as Susan bought fish from Captain Baker. Walking at a good pace along the well worn footpath by the river bank, then across two fields, George could reach Susan's house in three-quarters of an hour.

The year 1803 became a year of mixed blessings for George. At the age of twenty, first he saw his father's health deteriorate rapidly from January until he died in April, then George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> married Susan Rose on the 8th November 1803 Thorrington (Essex) by licence. Four months later, George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> junior was born on 11th March 1804 Wivenhoe. Uncle John<sup>(1779.50)</sup> would have seen his new nephew George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> before his fatal accident on the stagecoach, but Edward<sup>(1737.46)</sup> did not survive to see either his son's wedding or his grandson.

At the age of twenty-one, George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> collected his indentures and applied his hand as a merchant seaman for a while.

Hard times had not yet ended yet for George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> and his family. August 1806 not only saw the stagecoach accident of his brother but also the beginning of another set of bad circumstances. I am more incline to think of George as a victim than a renegade in what followed.

Merchant seamen hit upon hard times as Napoleon gained the support of Germany and ring-fenced Europe blockading British trade. George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> seems to have survived this blockade having just signed up as crew member on the new American trade routes which were now opening. Still, the family struggled on the best they could. The longer runs to America meant the pay check did not

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

always arrive on time and when it did the money was quickly gone. So by 1822 George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> and his family have to turn again to the poor fund of Wivenhoe. Sometimes out of work and sometimes because the pay cheque had not arrived, the poor accounts document a second generation of Limmer, struggling to make ends meet.<sup>343</sup>

The children of George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> and Susan have three and four year gaps between them, adding weight to the suggestion that George stayed on the American trade route right through the French hostilities toward Britain in 1812, and on through the passing of the slavery act forbidding slave transportation and finally through the Luddite uprising in England. All of these took toll on merchant shipping.

Daughters Lucy<sup>(1807.74)</sup> born 29th August 1807 Wivenhoe and Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup> born 26th October 1810 Wivenhoe would have hardly seen their father in all this time. The year third daughter, Susan, was born marked a turn of fortune. Susan<sup>(1814.74)</sup> born 20th November 1814, the year the European blockade ended. Britain signed two trade agreements, one with America and another with the Dutch.

Susan<sup>(1814.74)</sup>, born in Wivenhoe, grew up to live a life as a spinster dying in 1868 Stepney at the age of fifty-four. As a mark of these better times she was able to hold down a job most of her life and leave a little money. Fourth daughter, Lydia<sup>(1817.74)</sup> Limmer was born 6th June 1817 Wivenhoe.

George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> was the first son of George<sup>(1783.50)</sup>, and Susan. Born the year after his grandfather died, 11th March 1804, George grew up on

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343 See Wivenhoe Poor accounts Interlude\_of\_Interest 13 page 258

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

Family\_Line\_ 75:

**George**<sup>(1804.74)</sup>

**&**

**Selina Mills**

*From family line 74*

*Page 246*

the rough side of Wivenhoe renown for its smuggling, drunkenness and riots.

What opportunity was there for this lad who was destined to following his father's footsteps to the sea? Bearing in mind his grandmother Mary, had lived the last part of her life from donations from Wivenhoe poor fund because of her Husband Edward's ill health, and his mother also had to borrow money from the fund because his father's wages did not arrive home while he was at sea, determined him, (with a little influence of William Pitick), to lift out of a life of poverty.

At the age of 15, the local poor council stepped in<sup>344</sup> to find George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> an apprenticeship agreement with fisherman William Pitick. The papers were signed in 1818 and George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> moved out from home and under the care of William Pitick who lived a few roads away in a cottage overlooking the estuary. George was clearly under a better influence now, he served his seven year apprenticeship then continued to work for William.

As things were better internationally, George was able to hold down an almost uninterrupted period of employment and being a thrifty young man, he was able to save enough to buy a house on the better side of the water. At the age of thirty years, he married Selina Mills on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1834 at St. Martins Church Colchester. Selina, born 1815, was only nineteen at the time.

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344 Just as they had done for George's father. It is worth noting that education finished at 11 but apprenticeships began at 15, (a few began at 14) and lasted seven years only from the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was quiet customary for young lads to work for board and lodging for four years or so before being offered indentures. George clearly made the grade.

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

The house he managed to buy in West Street,<sup>345</sup> on the opposite side of the river to his parents, was a two up two down town house in a narrow road with the front door opening straight onto the road. George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> and his wife had no children of their own, but because of the difficulties in the living conditions at his sister Mary Ann's<sup>(1810.74)</sup> house, niece Mary Ann<sup>(1831.76)</sup> ended in the care of uncle George and auntie Selina in their Wivenhoe home. Mary Ann<sup>(1831.76)</sup> remained with them, unmarried, for the rest of her life. Later, when George and Selina moved to Oulton in Norfolk, (where George fished regularly from Lowestoft), Mary Ann<sup>(1831.76)</sup> went too.

Family\_Line\_ 76:

**Mary Anne<sup>(1810.74)</sup>**

**Unmarried  
&  
James Coote.**

Mary Anne<sup>(1831.76)</sup>

*Later married  
James and had  
4 other children*

*Family Line 74  
page 246*

George<sup>(1783.50)</sup> was buried 13th September 1838 Wivenhoe aged fifty-five.

Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup>, Having given up her daughter into the care of George and Selina, had a good deal less in life. With her father George away at sea most of the time and her mother Susan having five children to bring up, besides finding outside work to make ends meet, she her and her siblings became latch key kids, fendng for themselves.

Elder Brother George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> and elder sister Lucy were considered old enough and well behaved enough to fend for themselves. That left Susan who was six and Lydia who was five for Mary to look after during her illness.

Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup> was mainly looked after by her grandmother Mary. When grandmother Mary was taken ill in 1821, Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup>, barely eleven years old, was farmed out in turn to neighbours: Mrs

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345 the 1841 census for Wivenhoe shows only three Limmers living there. Living at West Street with them was Mary Ann Limmer age 10. The house was still standing in 2002 AD

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

Lucas, who looked after her for for thirteen weeks, Mrs Ladbrook, for eighteen weeks and Mrs Dowdeswell for thirteen weeks.<sup>346</sup> To be moved three times in so short a time begs the question as to Mary-Ann's behaviour. Did she inherit an attention deficit disorder or was she just a difficult child? All this happened while father George was on a long haul at sea. Was it just lack of a stable family? Unfortunately, we can only speculate.

Small wonder then, when Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup> was little more than twenty, she found herself in trouble. In 1831 Oct 29<sup>th</sup> a voluntary examination of Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup> Limmer, revealed she was expecting a child. Later that year, James Coote, late of Colchester was named as the father. The court granted a warrant of payment for the child. Mary Ann<sup>(1831.76)</sup> was born Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1831 and on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1832, Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup> was called for examination again.

James Coote appears to continue contact with Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup> but did not marry her straight away<sup>347</sup> That is how it came about, almost immediately after March 4<sup>th</sup> 1832, when Mary Ann<sup>(1831.76)</sup> was baptised, she was handed over to be brought up by uncle George<sup>(1804.74)</sup> and Auntie Selina<sup>348</sup>. James Coote and Mary-Ann<sup>(1810.74)</sup> eventually got together as a couple and we find them ten years later, (and just four miles up river at Hythe Quay), in the

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346 Wivenhoe poor fund records. Note whereas George passed his pre apprenticeship probation of thirteen weeks under William Pitick Mary Anne clearly did not. Finding Mary Ann a job under this system was difficult.

347 They may have lived as common law man and wife. They certainly got together as ten years later they had four more children, William, John Susanna and George Coote.

348 By request or coercion I do not know. Taking account of Mary-Ann's story, she may not have been considered 'a fit and proper person to bring up the child'. As such the church authorities would have looked for a relative to foster the child.

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

parish of St Leonard, Colchester. As a family, both they and the rest of their children settled, all were eventually buried in St Leonard's Churchyard.

George<sup>(1804.74)</sup>, on the other hand, a fit and healthy seaman for most of his life, never settled at home. He continued to go to sea until he died at sea aged 72 in 1876. On Tuesday 7th March, he sailed out as a Kitchen hand on the *Gem of the Ocean*, but in the afternoon he felt ill. Taking a bit of bread and cheese and a glass of whiskey to his bunk he slept for eleven hours and died in his sleep<sup>349</sup>.

Lydia<sup>(1817.74)</sup>, the youngest daughter of George and Susan, followed the footsteps of her sister Mary-Ann. She was aged 26 and unmarried when she had twins George and Lucy Limmer. Born 17th March 1844, both twins died in 1845. The father was one William Hartley.

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349 Coroners report - The Advertiser 11 march 1876.



## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

Family\_Line\_77:

**Lydia**<sup>(1817.74)</sup>

**Unmarried**

**William Hartley**

|

George<sup>(1844.77)</sup>

Lucy<sup>(1844.77)</sup>

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**Lydia**<sup>(1817.74)</sup>

**Unmarried**

**Thomas Wright**

Thomas Wright<sup>(1847.77)</sup>

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**Lydia**<sup>(1817.74)</sup>

**&**

**James Clark**

James Clark<sup>(1855.77)</sup>

*From family line 74  
page 246*

William Hartley was a popular name around this time so it would be difficult to pinpoint the father.

There are however, three likely candidates bearing in mind Lydia's age and location. Stevedore William Hartley might have been the father. William, born in 1817, was living in Poplar at the time of 1851 census and working the barges on *The Cut* canal. Factories backing onto the waters from as far up as Luton could ferry their goods down the *River Lee* and along *The Cut* to be unloading and loading as imports and exports onto ships at Limehouse docks.

More likely, however, Susan had brought her two daughters, Lydia and Susan, to live in Bow sometime between 1838 when her husband George died. The 1841 census, which shows Susan and Lydia Limmer living near to the London docks. London docks was a fast expanding development at the time. Susan's immediate family had moved to Middlesex from Thorington, so it is a natural assumption that

Susan uprooted and move to Bow to be near them. Since the new docks had opened in 1928, Billingsgate had become the centre of the fishing industry for the south because larger fishing boats were able to get down the Thames river than could ever navigate the estuary to Wivenhoe. The Rose family had been Fishmongers all of their lives, Now Susan and Lydia had joined them in the business.

Here we meet the second and most likely suspected. William

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

Hartley lived in Southwark street. He was two years younger than Lydia. Living round the corner to where Lydia and her mother Susan settled after the death of her father George, Lydia may have met William Hartley of Southwark by 1843. William was 27 years old in 1845 and as evidence suggests, worked as a labourer at Billingsgate fish market.<sup>350</sup> William, born in 1820 had lived within a few streets of the market all his life.

One other William Hartley might fit the bill, but it is doubtful. William Hartley, the owner of a pub in St Margaret, Westminster was thirty three years old and married at the time Lydia gave birth to the twins. It is conceivable that Lydia had worked as a domestic or barmaid for a while, but I do not think it so. It is far more probable that Lydia moved straight to London with her mother and settled there. We will have to wait for more evidence to turn up before the real William Hartley stands up to take responsibility.

In the 1834 poor law reform, unmarried mothers were made solely responsible for their children. Mothers could not apply to a poor house for refuge nor could they seek maintenance from the father. You will be forgiven if you despair at the intelligent thinking of parliament then as much as you may today. It was said that this law would stop women being promiscuous. Surely the clever men, (for men they were- though not so clever), could have worked out that males would have less reason to act responsibly. Of course the number of unmarried mothers rose rapidly by 1844 and so this law had been repealed under the outcry of society.

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350 There are two probable William Hartleys living in London at the time. One in Westminster, and the other, aged 27, living in Southwark within a few streets of what is now dockland. He worked as a labourer. Other William Hartleys Lived in London also but at the time of the twins birth they were either over fifty or under seventeen years and certainly not in the immediate vicinity of Lydia.

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

The twins, George and Lucy Hartley, were born after the passing of amendment to this act. Lydia does not seem to have sought compensation from William Hartley. As the twins died, it would not have made much difference anyhow. It may have been that she had not heard of the amended act, (as the working classes hardly ever knew what was going on in parliament), it may have been she did not have the means to pursue maintenance or, it may have been stubborn nature inherited from the genes of Susan. Having grown up in the fish business,<sup>351</sup> (like mother like daughter), Susan set out to support herself and her family.

Lydia<sup>(1817.74)</sup>, at the age of 30, is still unmarried when son Thomas Wright<sup>(1847.77)</sup> Limmer is born on the 13th April 1847. The father this time was a Thomas Wright.

Once again we have difficulty in identifying the right father. There are a dozen of them living in Middlesex. Five in Stepney, three in Hackney, three in Bethnal green and two in Poplar. If we exclude those outside of a five mile radius, those under twenty-five or over forty, one who was a vagrant and one other who was said to be a '*molly*',<sup>352</sup> we are left with three possible subjects, all married. One Thomas Wright, born in Scotland in 1817, came down from the north and married to Caroline Wright. He was living in Hackney St John and was working in the fish market. He becomes the chief suspect.

Another, married to Mary Wright, born 1816, also living in

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351 Her family were fish merchants in Thorington – possibly the market was where George and Lydia met.

352 Homosexual

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

Hackney. The third, born 1816, Living in Hackney, was married to Jane Wright, but he left no further clues for us to know if he should be included or not.<sup>353</sup>

Lydia Limmer finally married James Clark on the 9th November 1851 at Bethnal Green. James Clark, from Saffron Walden, born 1826, was 25 years old. Lydia being 34 years of age when she married and 39 years old when the Clarks had a son James Clark, half brother to Thomas Wright Limmer born in 1855. Thomas' birth certificate and death certificate bear the name Limmer while his marriage certificate bears the name Thomas Wright Limmer. The Clarks settled down to family life and as far as the neighbours knew they simply had two sons Thomas and James Clark.

Thomas used the name Clark for most of his life and he can be found under this name in all the censuses until 1881. James Clark died in 1879. In the 1881 census, Lydia is described as widow and the head of the family, living at 1 Parnham Street<sup>354</sup>. Thomas Wright took his mother's surname- Limmer- after that and never changed it again. This is clear by his marriage certificate in 1865. He married Susannah as Thomas Wright Limmer. His death certificate also

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353 Apart from one other who was 26 years old and living in Bethnal green at the time, another 7 local candidates show up in the census. Not much can be sifted out of the census other than narrowing down to three who are roughly the same age, and likely to have crossed Lydia's path locally or by occupation. Two were local 36 year old males are excluded, either the 36 year old living in Hackney or the 36 year old living in Bethnal green was accused of being a 'Molly' (homosexual) ;

354 Dwelling: 1 Parnham Street Lydia CLARK W 67 F Winver, Essex,  
England Rel: Head Occ: Fishmonger Thomas CLARK W 37 M  
Limehouse, Middlesex, England, Rel: Son, Occ: Fishmonger Lydia CLARK  
15 F Limehouse, Middlesex, England Rel: Grand Dau Thomas CLARK  
10 M Limehouse, Middlesex, England Rel: Grand Son (researched by  
Maureen Darby )

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

bears the surname Limmer Susannah died in 1880 and Thomas returned home to help his mother in the fishmonger business,<sup>355</sup>

Lydia<sup>(1817.74)</sup> died 1st May 1893 Stepney at the age of 76.

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<sup>355</sup> Thomas also being listed as a widower on the 1881 census. .

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES

### *Interlude of Interest 13: Poor relief records*

1821	July 6th		2	6	Relieved Limmer
1821	July 6 <sup>th</sup>		2	6	Relieved Limmer 2-6d
1821	Aug 3rd and 10th		4	0	Relieved Limmer
1821	December 25th	1	16	0	Paid Wm Ladbroke for girl Limmer 18 weeks at 2-0d
1822	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	1	0	6	Mr Dawdeswell for girl Limmer 13 weeks at 1-6d
1822	April 12 <sup>th</sup>		1	6	Relieved Mrs Limmer
1822	July 22nd		3	9	Richard's bill, Limmer shoes
1822	Sept 21st		2	6	Relieved Mrs Limmer, Sunday, nothing to eat
1822	Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>		2	6	Relieved Mrs Limmer, her money stopped 2-6d
1822	Nov 8th		2	0	Mrs Limmer, no letter no money
1822	Nov 15th		2	0	Mrs Limmer, no letter yet
1822	Nov 22nd		2	0	Mrs Limmer, no letter yet
1822	Dec 6th		2	0	Mrs Limmer, no letter yet
1822	Dec 27th		2	0	Mrs Limmer, no letter yet
1823	Jan/Feb/Mar		2	0	Mrs Limmer listed as receiving outdoor relief at 2-0d per week.
1824	Apr/May/June	1	4	0	Widow Limmer receiving outdoor relief at 2-0d per week.
1824	Jul/Aug/Sept ditto	1	4	0	Widow Limmer receiving outdoor relief at 2-0d per week.
1824	Oct 1st		2	0	Mrs Limmer towards a pair of shoes 2-0d
1824	Oct/Nov/Dec	1	6	0	Widow Limmer receiving outdoor relief at 2-0d per week.

## Chapter 24 HARD TIMES



*Figure 27: George bought a house in West Street -the other side of the river*

## Chapter 25 VICTORIAN ENGLAND

**T**homas (Wright) Limmer<sup>(1847.77)</sup> was only eighteen years old when he married on 26th November 1865 Stepney. As we have seen, while his birth certificate shows his name as Thomas Wright, bastard son of Thomas Wright, his marriage certificates shows him as Thomas Limmer. How he related to his father we can never know. Did he see his father from time to time or was he just born from a casual relationship? That is a question unanswered. Given that Thomas seemed to have kept Wright as a middle name and passed it on to his son suggests there was some sort of relationship. I have no doubt it will occupy the authors mind from time to time and the research will go on, but for the present we must move on or the book will never be finished. That Thomas took his mother's surname and passed it on to his son means the family name Limmer can continue down this line a little further.

When Thomas Wright Limmer<sup>(1847.77)</sup> married Susannah Isabella Hopper from his mother's house in Parnham street. Lydia, their eldest daughter was already on the way. Thomas, not having his father around, determined to develop a sense of responsibility.<sup>356</sup> The couple moved in with mother, Lydia<sup>(1817.74)</sup> who became a grandmother at the age of forty-nine. Susannah seems to have got on well with her mother-in-law as they all live together over the fish shop for many years. The fish shop later became a café and the landscape is little changed

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356What modern research teaches us about dysfunctional families is that the offspring can either become laissez-faire and repeat the behaviour of the parents or determine to provide stability. Thomas certainly seems to fall into the latter category .



## Chapter 25 VICTORIAN ENGLAND

Family\_Line\_ 78:

**Thomas  
Wright<sup>(1847.77)</sup>**  
&  
**Susannah  
Isabella Hopper.**

|

Lydia<sup>(1866.78)</sup>

Thomas Wright<sup>(1871.78)</sup>

James<sup>(1872.78)</sup>

Charlotte<sup>(1875.78)</sup>

Susan Isabel<sup>(1876.78)</sup>

Alfred<sup>(1880.78)</sup>

from family line 77  
Page 253

today, but- "*When I was a lad*"- working in Limehouse<sup>357</sup>, I remember the café standing not thirty yards from the railway arch spanning Parnham street and, being on the corner to Blount street. Pie and mash cost me 9d at the time<sup>358</sup>. For an ever hungry teenager it was scrumptious!

All the children of Thomas<sup>(1847.77)</sup>, were born in Grandma's small flat above the shop at 1 Parnham street, Stepney: As I think back to the size of the shop, it is not hard to imagine what chaos reigned in the flat above, with mother-in-law, husband and wife, six children and the smell of fish from the busy shop.

1) Lydia<sup>(1866.78)</sup>,

2) Thomas Wright<sup>(1871.78)</sup>.

3) James<sup>(1872.78)</sup> was baptised in 1872.

4) Charlotte<sup>(1875.78)</sup> died the same year.

5) Susan Isabel<sup>(1876.78)</sup> born 1876 died in her fourth year in 1879.

6) Alfred<sup>(1880.78)</sup> Born 1880 and died with his mother at birth on 25th April 1880 in Hackney hospital.

Only three of the six siblings survived. As the eldest daughter, Lydia<sup>(1866.78)</sup> was only fourteen years of age when her mother died. She would be of an age to go out to work, and so there was nothing for it, but the rest of the family had to be split up. Thomas, being ten at the time and about to sit his final school exams stayed at home.

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357At the time I was an apprenticed at George Clayton's Engineering in St Annes Row, Limehouse- around 1958. I would drop over the wall onto the tow-path of 'the Cut' canal which backed onto the factory and walk along to Salmon Lane and up Carr street to the café on the corner of Parnham street. Little did I know of the Limmer connection then.

358 'Old Money' - Pre 1969 decimalisation of the money system

## Chapter 25 VICTORIAN ENGLAND

Lydia became 'Mum', and James went to live with his aunt.

Family\_Line\_79:  
**Thomas**<sup>(1871.78)</sup>  
&  
**Nellie Moulton**

Nellie Florence<sup>(1892.79)</sup>  
Florence Susan<sup>(1894.79)</sup>  
Susan Harriet<sup>(1895.79)</sup>  
Emma<sup>(1897.79)</sup>  
Elizabeth Kate<sup>(1898.79)</sup>  
Thomas James<sup>(1899.79)</sup>  
Thomas William<sup>(1904.79)</sup>  
Kate Elizabeth<sup>(1905.79)</sup>

*from family line 78  
Page 261*

Thomas<sup>(1871.78)</sup> Limmer married Nellie Moulton 31st July 1892<sup>359</sup> Stepney. Nellie aged nineteen, was three years younger than Thomas. Thomas and Nellie moved to 63 Milton Rd Poplar some time before 1911, and Thomas went to work as a labourer in the soap factory with his brother.

Thomas Wright<sup>(1871.78)</sup> died 1912 Poplar age 42. Nellie, born 1873<sup>360</sup> died 1950 Poplar aged 77 years.

Of the next generation<sup>361</sup>, the eldest daughter, Nellie Florence<sup>(1892.79)</sup> born 1892 Stepney, married 1919 at Poplar, (the year the treaty of St Germain was signed)<sup>362</sup>. Her husband was William Shirley who was a Glass blower from Bethnal Green.<sup>363</sup>

Florence Susan,<sup>(1894.79)</sup> born 1894 Stepney also married in Poplar. At the age of twenty-four. She married Albert Boston in St Mathias church<sup>364</sup>, it was the same year Germany signed the armistice

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359 Nellie Limmer, 28, Dalston Middlesex, London, St Mary Stratford Bow, 1901.census

360 1911 Census shows the family with eight children, living in Poplar. Those that survived more than a year were Nellie<sup>(1893)</sup>, Florence<sup>(1894)</sup>, Susan<sup>(1896)</sup>, Emma<sup>(1897)</sup>, Thomas<sup>(1904)</sup>, Kate<sup>(1905)</sup>, Edith<sup>(1907)</sup>, Lydia<sup>(1909)</sup>.

361 All this family information was from Maureen Darby research

362 The Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, was signed on 10 September 1919 by the victorious Allies of World War I on the one hand and by the new Republic of Austria on the other.

363 William Shirley, 17, London Bethnal Green, London, Bethnal Green, Glass Blower 1901 census

364 Albert Boston, 6, Bow London, London, St Mary Stratford Bow 1901 census

## Chapter 25 VICTORIAN ENGLAND

with allies (1918).

Susan Harriet<sup>(1895.79)</sup> also married in St Mathias church, born in 1895 Stepney, and being twenty-one when she married William H Newman.<sup>365</sup> in 1916.

While newspapers were still reporting Lord Kitchener had drowned when *HMS Hampshire* hit a mine off Orkney Islands in June 1916, Susan Harriet<sup>(1895.79)</sup>, born 1895 in Limehouse, was marrying William H. Newman at Old Ford, Poplar,

Their fourth daughter Emma<sup>(1897.79)</sup> born 1897 married in St Mathias church, Stepney<sup>366</sup> around 1910.

Fifth daughter Elizabeth Kate<sup>(1898.79)</sup> started a sad period for Thomas and Nellie, she was the first of the next four children who did not survive. Born and died 1898 in Poplar.

The couples' first son Thomas James<sup>(1899.79)</sup> was next. He did not survive his first year either, Born 1899 in Poplar, he was later rushed to West Ham hospital where he died.<sup>367</sup> Alice Annie<sup>(1901.79)</sup> survived almost 2 years before she died in 1903.

Finally, Annie Maud<sup>(1903.79)</sup> did not survive her birth in 1903 Poplar.

The next two children fared a little better. Thomas William<sup>(1904.79)</sup> born 1904 Poplar. Died twenty years later in 1924 in East Ashford. While Kate Elizabeth<sup>(1905.79)</sup> born 1905 Poplar, lived twenty-one years, dying 1926 in Poplar.

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365 William H Newman, 10, Surrey Egham, London, Bermondsey : 1901 census  
366 1911 census

367 BMD records 1895 – 1910. London

## Chapter 25 VICTORIAN ENGLAND

The 1881 census is also the last census sighting of Thomas<sup>(1847.78)</sup>, he was deceased by 1892 when his son Thomas<sup>(1871.78)</sup> married, dying a year before his mother Lydia<sup>(1817.78)</sup> in 1892.

Lydia<sup>(1866.78)</sup> and Thomas<sup>(1871.78)</sup> continued to live with their father and Grandmother after their mother's death in 1893.<sup>368</sup> Then, having done her duty keeping house for the family for eight years after her mother's death, Lydia<sup>(1866.78)</sup> married in 1888 aged twenty-two, in Poplar. Thomas<sup>(1847.78)</sup> died in the spring of 1892 at a young age of forty-five. He never saw the marriage of his Son Thomas<sup>(1871.78)</sup> but Grandma Lydia<sup>(1866.78)</sup> did.

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368 1881 Census : Lydia Wright Clark Head, Wivenhoe, 67 yrs, female, Fishmonger  
Thomas Wright Clark, Son, 37, male, Fishmonger ;  
Lydia Clark, granddaughter, 15 yrs, No occupation ;  
Thomas Clark, Grandson, 10 yrs, Male, blank.

## Chapter 25 VICTORIAN ENGLAND



Billingsgate fish market was opened in 1698, until recently, it stood in the streets around Billingsgate Wharf by Lower Thames street. The City Corporation decided in 1849, during Lydia's lifetime, to move the market off the streets when it built a building on the waterfront. This was demolished and replaced by an arcaded market hall in 1875. Lydia and her mother would have walked from her shop, pushing a barrow along commercial road, (a distance of 2 miles), to arrive at Billingsgate as early as 5<sup>am</sup>.

The recent invention of ice machines may have helped Susan keep the fish a little fresher and she may have knocked the doors of regular customers on the way home.

## TAOS VICTORY

7,612 gross ton 'Victory' Class, built by the California Shipbuilding

Delivered on 31st Jan.1945, she entered service as a US Transport ship -

transferred to Britain she served as a troop and Cargo ship,

Sold to the *Donaldson Atlantic Line* in 1948 and altered to a passenger/cargo ship with accommodation for 55 passengers.

renamed LISMORIA, she was sold to ship breakers in 1966

and renamed again NEON for her final voyage to Taiwan where she was scrapped in 1967.

*Interlude\_of\_Interest 14: Taos Victory*

## **The late Victorian Era**

The Victorian era (1837-1901) saw many drastic changes to art, social life, politics and religion. It was a time of prosperity. The wealth gap between rich and poor was enormous. Imperial expansion, and great political reform saw some of the wealth filtering down to the lower classes. Conditions of the working class were still bad, though, through the century, three reform bills gradually gave the vote to males over the age of twenty-one.

In contrasting, was the horrible reality of child labour which persisted throughout the period. When a bill was passed stipulating that children under nine could not work in the textile industry, they simply pushed more children into other industries like chimney sweeps and not least teenage prostitution.

The Victorian Era was also a time of scientific progress. Darwin and the Theory of Evolution, The Great Exhibition of 1851, strides in medicine and the physical sciences, modern psychiatry, economic theory of Karl Marx, socialism and feminism all worked to rapidly change the nature of society.

Limmers had now spread the range from rich man, poor man, Beggar man, thief. The branch of Limmers we follow left the Victorian era and entered the fifth Georgian era, not as the very poorest in society, but among the working classes. In true Limmer manner, they kept their dignity and made the most of what they had.

*Interlude\_of\_Interest 15: The Victorian Era*

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION



*Figure 28: James & Caroline Limmer*

We now come to my father's generation. Grandparents James<sup>(1872.80)</sup> and Caroline were a typical Victorian working class couple, Caroline was better educated than James who could hardly read or write. When James was just seven years old his mother died. He was immediately sent to stay with his Aunt Charlotte and Uncle Thomas Pearson<sup>369</sup> at 794 Old Ford Road.<sup>370</sup>

Uncle Thomas was a Boiler felt maker. He and his wife took in three lodgers, Edwin Farrell, George Dunn and John Francis. It all helped to make ends meet. James<sup>(1872.80)</sup> lived there until his marriage to Caroline Charlotte Susannah Hawkes on 18th April 1897 at Bethnal Green.



*Figure 29: James and Caroline*

Caroline born about 1877 died 15th February

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369 1881 census Gunmer (Limmer), James, nephew, single, male, 7 yrs, £

370 1891 census: Limmer, James, nephew, single, male, 18 y



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Family\_Line\_ 80:

**James**<sup>(1872.78)</sup>

**&**

**Caroline**

James John<sup>(1898.80)</sup>

Caroline Mary<sup>(1900.80)</sup>

Albert Charles<sup>(1904.80)</sup>

Alice Rosina<sup>(1906.80)</sup>

Edith Lydia<sup>(1908.80)</sup>

Rosina Edith<sup>(1910.80)</sup>

Frederick Thomas<sup>(1913.80)</sup>

Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup>

*From Family Line 78  
page 261*

1957.



James took a pride in his work. He loved all his children but could give them little in time. Determined to break the family cycle of hardship, he worked many long hours to put bread on the table while Caroline ran a matriarchy at home. With a stern look but a soft heart she kept her children in line, (and her husband too if I judge rightly). Caroline took charge of the money and dished it out sparingly.

James left school at twelve, as was the working class norm for those days<sup>371</sup>. He gained employment in the local *Sunlight Soap* factory at Bow while still a lad lodging with aunt Charlotte Pearson.

When James was not working his long shifts, (first as lad pushing soap boxes off the end of a conveyor line, and later progressing to boiler man at the soap factory), he would be doing odd jobs where he could. He was not a socialiser, he rarely went to the pub with his contemporaries. Children of James<sup>(1872.80)</sup> and Caroline

- 1) James John<sup>(1898.80)</sup> born 1898 Poplar.

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<sup>371</sup>The school leaving age was generally 12 until 1918 when an act of parliament raised it to 14.

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION

- 2) Caroline Mary<sup>(1900.80)</sup> born 1900 Poplar.
- 3) Albert Charles<sup>(1904.80)</sup> born 8th September 1904 St Olave Bermondsey.
- 4) Alice Rosina<sup>(1906.d)</sup> born 1906 St Olave.
- 5) Edith Lydia<sup>(1908.80)</sup> born 1908 St Olave.
- 6) Rosina Edith<sup>(1910.d)</sup> was stillborn in 1910
- 7) Frederick Thomas<sup>(1913.80)</sup> born 1913 S Stepney.
- 8) Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> born 1917 S Poplar.

James<sup>(1872.80)</sup>, (the writers Granddad) died the year before I was born in East Ham 1943.



*Figure 31: James and his first-born James John*

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION

**Family Line 81:**

**James**<sup>(1898.80)</sup>

**&**

**Ethel  
Rawley**

**&**

**Maude Mary  
Rawley**

**&**

**Rose Crowe**

*from family line 80  
Page 269*

James John<sup>(1898.80)</sup> (Uncle Jim) lived at home until he married Ethel Rawley in 1937 at Stepney Jim was then aged 39. He was still at home in 24 Empson St. Bromley-by-Bow, when his sister, Caroline Mary<sup>(1900.80)</sup> reached her twenty-first birthday, sadly she died of TB that same year-1921.

Uncle Jim continued at home for another sixteen years until he married Ethel Rawley in 1937 and moved to Leigh-on-Sea. with his wife and sister-in-law Maude, Ethel died 1953.



*Figure 32: Jim and Ethel*

Jim then married Maud Mary Rawley (Ethel's sister) in 1954 at the registry office Southend-on-sea. Each working day Jim would rise at around 5:30 am and catch the train to London, do the same work he had done since he was a lad, then catch the 5:10 pm home again. Maude died 29th July 1965 at Southend-on-sea. A few years after the death of Maude, James sold up and moved in with his brother Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup>. Jim went on holiday later that year where he met Rose Crowe. In 1971, at the age of 73, he married Rose at Reading Registry Office. James John died 1975 in Haringey where



*Figure 33: Jim and  
Maude*

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION

he had been living with his wife Rose.

James had no children by any of these marriages, but he did have a cat which he idolised. Whenever he came to visit, the cat came too – on a lead.



*Figure 35:  
And the cat came too.....*



*Figure 34: left to right: Maude Jim and Ethel*

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION

Family\_Line\_ 82:

**Caroline  
Mary**<sup>(1900.80)</sup>

from family line 80  
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In 1921 all the family were still living together in Poplar. Having lost Rosina Edith<sup>(1910.80)</sup>, stillborn in 1910 and little Alice Rosina<sup>(1906.80)</sup> barely nine years before, Caroline Mary<sup>(1900.80)</sup> died of TB.

Family\_Line\_ 83:

**Albert  
Charles**<sup>(1904.80)</sup>  
&  
**Violet Gertrude  
Roberts**

Maureen Vera<sup>(1939.80)</sup>

from family line 80

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Albert Charles Limmer born 8<sup>th</sup> September 1904 in St Olave, Bermondsey married Violet Gertrude Roberts 4th June 1933 Leyton Essex. Violet was born 22 Jan 1903 Walthamstow . Albert Charles died 4th April 1973 Southend-on-Sea. Violet died 8th December 1985 Leigh-on-Sea.



*Figure 36:  
Bert and Vi*

*Maureen Vera Limmer was born. On the 9th August 1939 in Clapton  
Maureen Vera<sup>(1939.83)</sup> married William Darby, in 1960.*



*Figure 38: Maureen  
with her parents*



*Figure 37: Albert and  
Violet Limmer*

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Family\_Line\_ 84:

Alice Rosina<sup>(1906.80)</sup>

*from family line 80  
Page 269*

Alice Rosina<sup>(1906.80)</sup>

sadly died before her sixth birthday in 1912 in Stepney

Family\_Line\_ 85:

Edith Lydia<sup>(1908.80)</sup>

**&  
Alfred  
Willbourne**

Linda<sup>(Adopted)</sup>

Robert<sup>(Adopted)</sup>

*from family line 80  
Page 102*

Edith Lily Limmer married Alfred R. Willbourne. In 1946 at Ilford and moving straight way into 222 Clements Road Caroline's house. They had two adopted children Linda and Robert, both of whom died before they reached twenty-one. When Caroline died in 1957, Edith and Alfred sold the house and moved to Leigh-on-sea. When Edith died 1970 Leigh-on-Sea, Alfred sold up and moved to Ilford where he died 1991



Figure 39:  
Eddie



Figure 40: Left : Ivy, Michael,  
Eddie, Brian, Alf Mid : Linda &  
Jean front: Robert & Paul

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION



*Figure 41: The clan gathering for Eddie's wedding*

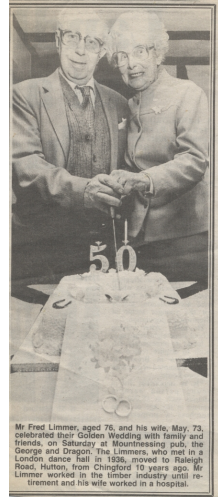
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**Family Line 86:**  
**Frederick**  
**Thomas<sup>(1913.80)</sup>**  
**&**  
**May Horsnell**

Susan<sup>(1947.86)</sup>

from family line 80  
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Frederick Thomas Limmer married May Horsnell 1940 St. Paul's Church East Ham. Frederick Thomas died 1992 Hutton near Brentwood. May died at the age of 95 on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2011



Mr Fred Limmer, aged 76, and his wife, May, 73, celebrated their Golden Wedding with family and friends, on Saturday at Mountviewing pub, the George and Dragon. The Limmers, who met in a London dance hall in 1936, moved to Faleigh Road, Hutton, from Chingford 10 years ago. Mr Limmer worked in the timber industry until retirement and his wife worked in a hospital.

*Figure 42: Fred and May celebrate their golden wedding anniversary*



*Figure 43: Susan and Rachel Barry (Ivy Limmer's sister) share a moment. The Limmers and Barrys used to go dancing together in their youth*

Susan Limmer born 1947, Epping. Susan Vera<sup>(1939.83)</sup> married Eddie MacFarlane



*Figure 44: Susan and her Mum raise a toast on May's 90th birthday*



## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION

### **Family Line 87:** **Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup>**

**&  
Ivy Freda**

Michael John<sup>(1940.87)</sup>

Brian Edward<sup>(1944.87)</sup>

Jean Margaret<sup>(1947.87)</sup>

Paul Anthony<sup>(1951.87)</sup>

*from family line 80  
Page 269*

Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> was born in Hackney 11 July 1917 - just within the sound of Bow bells, (on a quiet day). Close enough though, to claim he was a cockney. He went to the local school. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> left School at fourteen and started work as a messenger boy Imperial Wireless. Leaving there, he found work in the old ford road reclaiming the lead solder from Gas meters. Moonlighting, he and Fred transported corks on a barrow for a waste cork merchant on the corner of Commercial Road and Sydney street. There was little to for teenagers to do in those days. The local palace would have dance bands at weekends. That was there Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> met Ivy Barry.



*Figure 45: Harold in the boys brigade*

The Limmers and Barrys became good chums. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> and Ivy, Ivy's sisters Rachel and Kit, and their brother Bob would all go to dance at weekends. Harold's brother Fred would go along too. He met May Horsnell there.

Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> received his call up papers for the royal ordinance corps soon after his marriage in 1939 in Ilford. He had just completed his Army training by the time his First Son Michael John<sup>(1940.87)</sup> was born, in Brixworth Saturday 19 October 1940. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> was able to get a twenty four hour pass for that.



*Figure 46:  
Harold, Ivy and  
Michael*

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION

On his return, his platoon was called to parade where the command sergeant volunteered him as a driver. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> recalls how he had never driven before, the sergeant ordered him into the cab of a twenty ton truck and told him to follow his Jeep. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> dutifully obeyed and on arrival at a camp further down the road, he was told, 'you will do'. That is how Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> learned to drive. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> drove until he was over eighty but never had to take a test.

Ivy and Michael were quickly evacuated to avoid the London bombing. In the four years of the war they were moved to Northampton, Chichester, Shropshire, Surrey, Forest Gate, Cornwall and East Ham.



*Figure 47: View of the fleet from Taos Victory*

Ivy and Michael<sup>(1940.87)</sup> also spent some time at Romsey in Hampshire where Ivy went '*in service*' to lord Joshua and lady Braye. Michael had learned to climb out of his pram by then, and after a frantic search one day, was found in the larder cuddling a rabbit destined for the Pot

The year Brian<sup>(1944.87)</sup> was born, a combination of untreated milk and damp air raid shelter caught up with Michael and he contracted TB. The worry of Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> and Ivy at the news has to be understood in the light that Harold had lost a sister to TB and Ivy had lost a cousin. There was no recognised cure for TB at the time and those that survived often suffered disability. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup>, anxious at the news, spent one leave cycling on a borrowed bike, to see his wife and son. On the way he got a puncture. Such was war time initiative, he packed the tyre tightly with grass from the verge and finished his journey.

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*Figure 48: Michael in Hospital*

Ivy and Michael were back in London by now so Michael, who was just about to start his school life, spent Christmas in Whipps Cross Hospital. After Christmas Michael was transferred to the Alton (Treloar Hospital) where he became 'guinea pig' for the new TB drugs of the time. How grateful we all are they worked and Michael could return home to Langdon Crescent in the Summer

of 1947.

The war was coming to its climax by the time of his second son's birth. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> would not talk about next period of his service. He was sent abroad on tour to India, Japan and other parts of Asia but preferred to block out the experience. It was just as he was due to board the Taos Victory for this tour when Brian<sup>(1944.87)</sup> was born. "Nothing", they say, "is certain in life bar death, and taxes". Born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of march 1944 in East Ham Hospital, Brian's<sup>(1944.87)</sup> present to England was PAYE.<sup>372</sup>

The Taos Victory was late arriving and Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup>, was confined to barracks ready to be shipped out as soon as it docked. Recognising you do not go to India for a weekend trip and unable to obtain a weekend pass, but determined to see his son, went absent without leave (AWOL). He sneaked pass the military police at the train station he travelled to East Ham, saw his son and returned the same day. He got off the train one stop before camp to avoid being observed by the military police. Unfortunately, this adventure made



*Figure 49: Troops on the Taos Victory 1944*

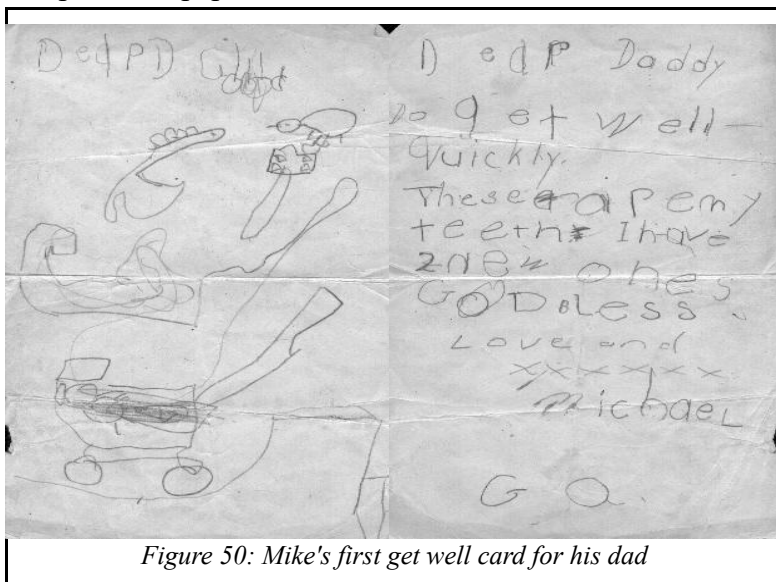
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372 Pay As You Earn tax collection system was introduced April 5<sup>th</sup> 1944.

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him ten minutes late for curfew, so his well-oiled plan ended with fourteen days 'spud bashing'.

The Taos Victory arrived the following day and Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> found himself on route to India, Hong Kong and Germany and finally, in 1947, home for the remainder of his army days. Unfortunately it did not mean he was free to go home because, on return, Harold was hospitalised due to a tropical disease affecting his stomach. Ivy and Michael were unable to visit but they wrote to him. Such letters were treasures and kept to this day. Michael's get well card produced on two pieces of paper.



*Figure 50: Mike's first get well card for his dad*

On demob in 1945, Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> and Ivy set up home in Hackney where Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> went to work with British Home Stores.

In 1947, with Britain now recovering from the war, a massive housing project meant new council estates were popping up everywhere. Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> and Ivy were offered a council house – 67

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Langdon Crescent<sup>373</sup> – The paint was still wet when they moved in as Brian<sup>(1944.87)</sup> can testify. Sensing the excitement in the air, Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> and Ivy approached the last few yards, unlocked the door and entered, Brian ran straight into the kitchen where he looked for the new air raid shelter – the cupboards under the sink. By the time Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup> realized the paint was still wet, the damage had been done- a cream coloured camouflage emerged from under the sink to a severe reprimand.

As the old wife's saying goes, '*New house new baby*'. Rearranging the house in 1951 presented an air of excitement around the house -though Michael<sup>(1940.87)</sup> and Brian<sup>(1944.87)</sup> had no idea as to why they were moved from the back bedroom to the front. Hospital was not the normal place for second or third births in those days. Who would look after the other children? Everyone was busy rebuilding Britain so mothers had to get on with life. Neighbours all rallied round though in the spirit founded by the war, running to and fro with water and sheets and popping a head round the bedroom door every now and then to see if Michael and Brian were OK.

Jean<sup>(1948)</sup> arrived safely on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1948. Living at Langdon Crescent meant long bike rides to work for Harold<sup>(1917.80)</sup>, who had by now transferred from his job in Battersea Power Station to a newly built power



Figure 51: Jean



Figure 52:  
*Whatever  
happened to the  
cyclMASTER?*

---

373 The houses were metal clad and meant to be temporary houses lasting no more than twenty years but as I write they still stand with no sign of decay and I expect they will see their hundredth year before being retired from housing stock.

## Chapter 26 MY FATHER'S GENERATION

station at Barking, where he was to work for the next 18 years. Times were getting better by Jean<sup>(1948)</sup> was born. With a final saddle patting ceremony of grateful thanks to his cycle, (which rested in the hall each night to keep the pram company), Harold mounted his new 'Cyclemaster', peddled a few yards, let out his clutch and sat back to let the 25<sup>cc</sup> engine 'putt putt' him to the two-to-ten shift at the power station.



Figure 53: Paul and Janice

It was three-and-a-half years later. This time Michael<sup>(1940.87)</sup>, Brian<sup>(1944.87)</sup> and Jean<sup>(1948.87)</sup> were safely packed into the front bedroom while noisy neighbourhood baby wardens scurried to and fro, finally peering round the door and announcing we had a brother, Paul Anthony. Paul<sup>(1951.87)</sup> joined the clan September 23rd 1951 and after a few months, the front bedroom was divided into three territories shared amicably when at play - (which was most of the time)- but jealously guarded when a bit of 'self time'

was needed.

Once Brian<sup>(1944.87)</sup> had left home to marry Rosemary Anne Mizel on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1966, Jean<sup>(1947.87)</sup> had left home to marry Keith Dowding in August 1968, and Paul married Janice Irene Ridgwell at Clewer Parish Church Windsor on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1978. Harold and Ivy had nothing to hold them and so started on another adventure



Figure 54: Anne & Brian

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*Figure 55: Mike's 60th birthday*

First they moved to a bungalow in Norfolk, then, even more adventurous for a retired couple, moved to a caravan on a plot in Wye, Kent where Jean and Keith were building a group of five houses.

Having lived in one of the finished houses for a while, Harold and Ivy then moved again and finally settled in Bracknell where Michael<sup>(1940.87)</sup> and Paul<sup>(1952.87)</sup> now lived.

When Ivy died 1987 in Bracknell, Harold moved in with Michael<sup>(1940.87)</sup> until he died in 2004.

### Children of Harold and Ivy:

- 1) Michael<sup>(1940.87)</sup> 19th October 1940
- 2) Brian<sup>(1944.87)</sup> born March 4th 1944 in East Ham Hospital. Married Rosemary Anne Mizel 19th March 1966.
- 3) Jean<sup>(1948)</sup> married Keith Dowding 24th August 1968  
Keith was born 13th July 1948 at 55 Westcombe hill London.
- 4) Paul Anthony<sup>(1951.87)</sup> born 23 Sept 1951 at East Ham married Janice Irene Ridgwell born 5th April 1953 at St Andrews Church Windsor on 18th March 1978



*Figure 56: Keith and Jean get engaged*

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*Figure 57: Harold's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday*

*Rear : Zoe holding Megan, Alex, David, Steven, Tara, Michael, Keith, Jean, Janice, Konique, Emily, Anne, Alison, Chris*

*Harold, Brian*

*front: Great Grandchildren Adam Limmer, Mark Nutt, Luke Nutt, Harriet Jachec, April Nutt*



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